

Hafa Adai!

EPA engineer notes CUC's progress on many projects. **PAGE 6**

6 years in jail for dousing woman with gas, starting fire. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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Cimaron dumps heavy rain

Cars pass through a flooded portion of Beach Road as heavy rains brought by Typhoon Cimaron dumped as much as 6 inches of rain on Saipan yesterday.

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan almost ground to a halt yesterday as an excessively wet Typhoon Cimaron whipped through the Marianas region, dumping 4 to 6 inches of rain that flooded many roads.

Widespread flooding

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Several areas in the CNMI experienced widespread flooding yesterday as a result of Typhoon Cimaron as it passed through Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands.

Saipan in particular bore the brunt of Typhoon Cimaron yesterday, as heavy rains caused flooding in both high and low areas of the island. Flooded areas included Koblerville, Beach Road, Garapan, As Lito, the air-

port, San Antonio, and more.

Large amounts of surface dirt and silt were also eroded due to the downpour, causing various streets and highways to overflow with mud.

According to an Office of the Governor statement, rainfall of 4 to 6 inches was recorded yesterday but residents of Saipan and Tinian can still expect 6 to 8 inches of rain as Typhoon Cimaron passes through.

A flash flood watch is in effect

See FLOODING on Page 4

JON PEREZ

The Public School System cancelled all classes on Saipan and Tinian due to the bad weather, while Rota public classes remained open. The Northern Marianas College also sent their students home.

Some private schools followed a few moments later after Cimaron was upgraded to a Condition II weather disturbance.

PSS classes on Saipan and Tinian will remain canceled today, Aug. 21, 2018, according to an advisory last night.

"In the event that an 'all clear' is declared, central office staff, school administrators and noncertified staff are to report to work.

"PSS will be focused on resuming classes as soon as possible and will issue further notices as weather updates become available," the PSS advisory added.

PSS opened the Kagman High School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Tanapag Middle School on Saipan and the Tinian Elementary School on Tinian as typhoon shelters.

See CIMARON on Page 4

'People in NI are safe'



This file photo shows the west side of Pagan Island where a Japanese monument stands.

BEA CABRERA

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Islands of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan were under Typhoon Condition 1 as of 3pm yesterday due to the passage of Typhoon Cimaron, but Northern Islands Mayor Vicente B. Santos assured that residents of these islands are safe.

Typhoon Condition 1 means residents should expect destructive winds of 74 miles per hour or more within the next 24 hours, but Santos said his office's last radio communication with the people on the islands was Monday morning "and all the people are safe. Currently, there are four people on Alamagan, 15 on Pa-

See PEOPLE on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

President Donald Trump is blasting the ongoing Russia investigation as "McCarthyism."

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ASIA

A plane from China skids off a runway at Manila's airport and lost an engine and a wheel.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Crazy Rich Asians" debuted at No. 1 in North American theaters this weekend.

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Local

PSS opens four schools for shelter

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Public School System offered three of its schools yesterday as evacuation shelters after Tropical Storm Cimarón

was upgraded to a typhoon.

Soon after announcing the cancellation of classes for Saipan and Tinian public schools, interim education commissioner Glenn Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that Kag-

man High School, Tanapag Middle School, and Koblerville Elementary School on Saipan and the Tinian Elementary School are open to those in need of shelters.

There were no immediate re-

ports of families seeking shelter.

Muña said yesterday that students are prioritized prior to planning and preparing for using the school as shelters.

"Before our staff are sent home, we need to make sure that their classrooms are secured. Then, we send the students home ahead of time before the storm gets closer. We want to make sure the students get home safely," Muña told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We do have PSS first responders that are still working while the rest of our staff are sent home," he said, adding that the first responders

for PSS are usually those that work at the Emergency Operations Center, or EOC.

Kagman High School, according to Muña, can shelter 80 civilians, Tanapag Middle School can shelter 40, and Koblerville Elementary School can shelter 46. Tinian Elementary School has a capacity for 40 people.

"If we need [more room], we can open other schools, but for now we are only opening three [on Saipan]," he said, adding that the cafeterias would be used as shelters.

"The safety of our students and staff is paramount and we need to ensure they get home to prepare for the storm," adding Muña in a statement.

The Office of the Governor upgraded Saipan and Tinian around 3pm from Tropical Storm Condition II to Tropical Storm Condition I.

For Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan, Typhoon Condition II was upgraded to Typhoon Condition I.

Upgrading the islands closely followed an EOC announcement upgrading Tropical Storm Cimarón into a full-blown typhoon. The EOC warns the public of possible wind speeds of 39 mph to 73 mph within the next six to 12 hours as of 2:30pm yesterday.

If you are in need of shelter, contact the State Warning Point at 237-8000 for transportation to your nearest shelter.



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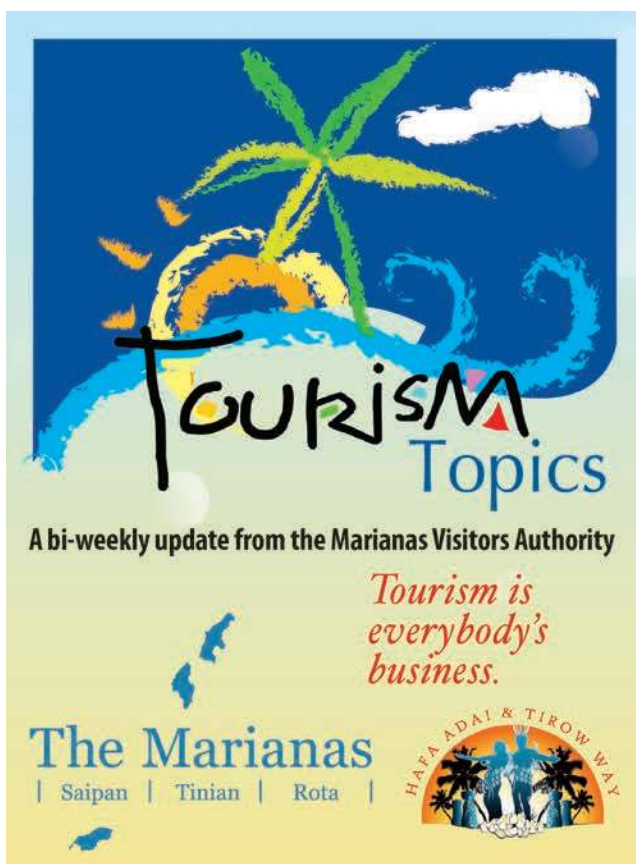
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WET JOURNEY

A cyclist makes his way along a wet Beach Road Pathway, as strong wind and rain whip the trees along the path.

JON PEREZ



Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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DCCA expects flooding, prepares Aging Office

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has initiated preparations for using the Office of Aging in Gapan as a possible evacuation shelter as Typhoon Cimaron passes over the CNMI.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter said yesterday that his department is making the necessary preparations in order to have the Office of Aging ready for civilians seeking shelter.

"All the shelters are on standby if we need them. We are ready," Hunter told Saipan Tribune yesterday. "As soon as we are called and it is known to us that there are individuals in need of shelter accommodation, we have staff on the ready to make shelter available for them and to man the shelters as well."

Many DCCA offices served as temporary shelters soon after the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015.

Hunter noted that, according to the Emergency Man-

agement Office, damaging winds are expected to be low. He further noted that if there were individuals in need of shelter, it would probably be because of flooding.

"There is a lot of rain associated with this typhoon," he said.

Hunter noted that the Aging Office could shelter up to 40 people at a time.

DCCA's second shelter, the Kagman Community Center, is currently offline and undergoing renovation.

The Governor's Office upgraded Saipan and Tinian from Tropical Storm Condition II to Tropical Storm Condition I around 3pm yesterday and declared Typhoon Condition I for Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan.

The EOC warns the public of possible wind speeds of 39 mph to 73 mph within the next six to 12 hours as of 2:30pm yesterday.

If you are in need of shelter, contact the State Warning Point at 237-8000 for transportation to your nearest shelter.

Courts cease operations

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

All offices of the CNMI Judiciary shut down operations and put scheduled hearings on hold yesterday due to the inclement weather brought by Typhoon Cimaron.

Soon after it was announced that Typhoon Cimaron would hit the Marianas yesterday, the Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office announced that all Judiciary offices would be closed until the threat of Typhoon Cimaron has been cleared.

The announcement came after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared Saipan and Tinian at 8am to be under Tropical Storm Condition II, shutting down the operation of all non-essential government agencies.

As of yesterday evening, Torres upgraded Saipan and Tinian to Tropical Storm Condition I and that should remain that way through today as Typhoon Cimaron slowly inches away from the Marianas.

All court hearing are expected to resume tomorrow,

Wednesday, Aug. 23.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Typhoon Cimaron was reported to be moving toward the west-northwest at 7 mph and is expected to make a slight turn toward the northwest with an increase in forward speed over the next 24 hours, with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Typhoon Cimaron is forecasted to intensify through today.

Cimaron or "simaron" in Tagalog refers to something, usually an animal, that is wild, ferocious or savage.

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KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
A sloshy Typhoon Cimaron inundated several areas on Saipan with rain yesterday, causing widespread flooding.



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Cimaron's closest approach extended to last night

Typhoon Cimaron was projected to make its closest point of approach to Saipan and Tinian last night; however, the National Weather Service expects the worst weather conditions to occur at 4am to 6m this morning.

Because of the continued anticipated threat from Typhoon Cimaron, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has maintained

Tropical Storm Condition I for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, and Typhoon Condition I for the islands of Agrihan, Pagan and Alamagan.

In an advisory issued last night at 8:45pm, the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center said that Saipan and Tinian

FLOODING

From Page 1

for Saipan, Tinian, Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan due to Typhoon Cimaron's slow motion and its potential for excessive rainfall.

Typhoon Cimaron is forecasted to intensify through today.

As of 1pm yesterday, Typhoon Cimaron was reported to be moving west-northwest at 7 mph, and is expected to make a slight turn toward the northwest, with an increase in forward speed over the next 24 hours with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph.

There were no reports, however, of power or water outages.

The U. S. Coast Guard is on "yankee status," meaning all seaport operations have been suspended until further notice.

Federal court closed

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V.

PEOPLE

From Page 1

gan, and six in Agrihan."

Communication with the Northern Islands has been suspended to prevent damage to the radio antennas on each island.

"During these weather conditions, radio antennas are put down to prevent loss and damage. We do have scheduled communications so the people there know what time we are going to contact them and vice versa. We have a staff who is monitoring weather conditions [on] the Northern Islands at the Emergency Management Office as we get updates at 8am and at 4pm on Saipan," he added.

In a separate interview, Nadine Deleon Guerrero of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency external affairs office does not see the distance between Saipan and the Northern Islands as an obstacle to maintain communication and updates.

"We keep in contact with them. We do it twice a day. ... We have weather radio where we contact them, just to make sure they are okay or if there's anything that they need," she said.

Manglona ordered yesterday morning the court's closure.

The District Court was ordered closed at 10:30am; at that time, Saipan was in Tropical Storm Condition II status.

Manglona said Tropical Storm Condition II means damaging winds of 39 miles per hour are expected within the next six to 12 hours.

The judge said there is an imminent risk of damaging winds and flash flooding from the storm.

There was no scheduled hearing yesterday.

Manglona said CM/ECF electronic filing system, however, will remain online, unaffected by the court's closure.

The court is presently scheduled to re-open at normal business hours today, Tuesday.

A change of plea hearing will be held today, Tuesday, at 9am, in the case against Kosuke Tomokiyo, who is facing charges of fraud and misuse of visas and permits. *(With Ferdie de la Torre)*

"We usually send help, whether it is Department of Public Safety or Department of Fire and Emergency and Medical Services. Our office coordinates it and then we get them the supplies they need. We have to wait until the worst of the conditions are gone because we don't want to put our first responders in danger too," she added.

Santos assured that people on the three islands have enough supplies. "They have water and food as supplies where updated during our trip last week."

"We have storm shelters on the three islands and residents know what to do when a typhoon with this strength hit the islands," he added.

Santos assures people on Saipan who have families on Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan that his office is working hard to give them updates. "It's a natural instinct to be worried for a loved one and a family member. We understand their concern but we tell them not to worry," he said.

"Once the radio is back Tuesday or Wednesday, we encourage these people to call the office and we will ask them to come to the office so they can personally talk to their loved ones in the Northern Islands," he added.

can expect damaging winds of 39 to 73 mph within the

next six to 12 hours. Alamagan, Pagan, and

Agrihan can expect destructive winds of 74 mph or more

within the next 24 hours. *(Saipan Tribune)*

'Autonomous agencies settling CUC accounts'

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho said autonomous agencies like the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have been slowly settling their accounts, making their payables current.

"We receive payments and we've got a wonderful payment programs with [the Public School System] and other autonomous agencies and with the central government," said Camacho.

"The Governor's Office and the Secretary of Finance [Larrisa Larson] have been

working with CUC in the last couple of months. They work the arrears down to a current, roughly to about \$1.9 million, which brings down their accounts to current."

PSS, the central office, and public schools spends at least \$2 million a year and are slowly settling their dues with CUC.

Camacho said they are also working with CHCC and the Commonwealth Ports Authority "in addressing their arrears. There are some things that we're working out and it has to be a little creative because both parties' interests have to be addressed."

"But, by the same token,

like any other customer, services have to be paid. I think we need to be fair across the board as we are with all residential and commercial customers. We have to be the same with the government."

CHCC recently had a groundbreaking on a Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure at the Commonwealth Health Center parking lot, a project that chief executive officer Esther L. Muña said would lessen their electricity costs.

"So we all know the situation with CHCC and CUC, that there's obviously a lot of expenditures. We spend about \$300,000 a month on power consumption. So any

reduction basically is savings," said Muña.

She added every penny saved by the hospital would be beneficial to all. "It definitely benefits the organization, CUC, and the patients overall. We're working with them to reconcile our accounts. There's some discussion on the actual amount owed. We're working with them."

Muña said they expect to save as much as \$700,000 from their utility bills once the solar project at the hospital's grounds is completed by next year. The Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs helped fund the project, a \$560,000 grant that would be completed in April 6, 2019.

Leepan: Don't jump the gun

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) said that people should not jump the gun and must get all the facts before making any comments, especially about the controversial issue with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

"Because there's a stray bullet, somebody shoots their gun, acts as if there's a war," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. It was reported Friday that some IPI employees experienced a minor delay in their salaries. IPI said "transfer issues" caused it, with their hourly workers getting their salary last Friday. All their salaried employees were paid yesterday, with the checks released at around noon, less than a week from what IPI officials originally said.

IPI officials informed their salaried employees that all checks were available for

their managers or designates to pickup.

Guerrero added that one must get all the facts before weighing in on the issues. "You must do an analysis first. Reach out to IPI and find out first what really happened. Right now, all they [the community] are hearing is IPI did not pay its employees, but they got paid."

"They are trying to do it the legal and correct way. They don't want to be accused of smuggling out of China. What do you think the feds would think, they're laundering money? [IPI] has to follow the laws. If they are not following the law they would get penalized by the feds and the [Commonwealth Casino Commission]."

He added that people should not make hasty comments. "If they [employees] were not paid, then that is when we look

into it. Just because somebody leaked some information that they are not going to get paid."

"The day was not yet over. Obviously, when they heard it Friday morning, the day wasn't over. [Rep] Ed Propst had jumped the gun. First of all, learn how to shoot the gun before you shoot it. You don't just take the gun and put the bullet and shoot. What are you shooting, actually?"

He said that Propst's comments were based on premature information. "We do understand it is political season. This is the right time for others that are not member of the GOP to attack the other party so they can be able to sustain and garner enough votes. I think the best approach to this is let the people vote on Nov. 6."

"I am a true believer that, if you want to accomplish something, do it when you get elected. Not this hogwash and start attacking one another.

These are all childish and this is nonsense. As I always say, I have an election to win and my agenda is to win. Not to politically attack others."

Guerrero said his strategy is to tell people why they should vote for him. "That's what we should be doing and not attacking each other. After you win the election, then that's when you work things out and make sure you satisfy the community. Not attack them because of what is happening now, those are all premature."

He added that the administration, starting from the late governor Eloy S. Inos, has achieved a lot in the economy. "Not to brag but the community has seen it and the business community has also seen it. The revenues are being collected. You don't see any austerity measures and no payless Friday. You see salary increases for the government." *(Jon Perez)*

CIMARON

From Page 1

As of yesterday, there are two shelterees in Kagman High; six at Koberville Elementary; 10 at Tanapag Middle School; none at Tinian Elementary School.

Interim education commissioner Glen Muña cancelled public school classes on Saipan and Tinian at 8:30am yesterday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered all government offices to shut down, sending all non-critical employees home to prepare for Cimaron. The Governor's Office also moved Torres' State of the Commonwealth Address to Friday due to safety concerns and the expected inclement weather.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency maintains a 24-hour operation to keep track of Cimaron and other weather disturbances.

There has been one report of a power outage in the village of Papago, but power has been since then restored. No other outages have been reported as

of press time.

As of 2:57pm yesterday, Torres upgraded the islands of Saipan and Tinian to Tropical Storm Condition I.

He also declared Typhoon Condition I for the Northern Islands of Agrihan, Alamagan, and Pagan.

Cimaron, as of 1pm, was situated at 235 miles northeast of Saipan; 250 miles northeast of Tinian; 175 miles east of Alamagan; 185 miles east-southeast of Pagan; and 210 miles east-southeast of Agrihan.

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport continued with its operations, with all inbound and outbound flights going as scheduled while domestic flights were called off as of 2pm. The U.S. Coast Guard also suspended all seaport operations.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority suspended its regular routes and prepared to support any resident that would need help being transported from their homes to shelters.

Personnel from the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Works

have been clearing roads of debris to keep it passable. Residents can report impassable roads to DPW's Agency Operating Center at 3229498.

Worst condition

CNMI HSEMA external affairs officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero, in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said the rest of the Commonwealth felt the brunt of Cimaron late evening yesterday and early Tuesday morning.

"The worst of it, meaning more wind and heavy rainfall. Saipan and Tinian will have gusts of up to 40mph, which sounds like a lot [but not as much compared] to the Northern Islands where they are going to get 70mph or higher," Deleon Guerrero said.

She added that there are about 20 people living on the three islands but they have been in direct contact with them to keep track of their situation. "We keep in contact with them. We do it twice a day, at 8am and at 4pm."

Deleon Guerrero said they anticipate Cimaron to continue its projected track of going fur-

ther north, expecting it to hit Agrihan, Alamagan, and Pagan. "But we're [Saipan] also going to experience the bad weather. We're going to get a lot of rain and a lot of wind. We're expecting 4 to 8 inches of rain in the next day or so."

To work with DPW

Deleon Guerrero said that they are going to work with DPW to get information on the flood-prone areas on the island. "Normally, we've try to get help from DPW. I know they are also busy to [release] information on what areas flood the most."

"Right now, they have a lot of priorities. So we're expecting to meet with them in the next month or so to identify where those flood-prone areas are. For now, we don't have any information yet because our guys haven't gone out and done an assessment."

"So we don't want to say, this place is flooded just because it has been flooded before. Until our guys can do a windshield assessment, we're not able to release information officially from our office."

'CPA-Star Marianas row over user fees should be with FAA'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority maintains that its dispute with Star Marianas Air Inc. over user fees is already before the Federal Aviation Administration, which has jurisdiction over this issue.

CPA, through legal counsel Robert T. Torres, said that Star Marianas' claim should remain with FAA and not before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Torres submitted CPA's reply to Star Marianas' complaint, saying it must be dismissed. The lawyer said there is no question that FAA has primary jurisdiction over this issue.

Star Marianas claims that resolution of its breach of contract claim against CPA raises a federal issue because CPA has allegedly violated its federal obligation to impose reasonable rates and charges.

But Torres said Star Marianas cites just a single case in support of its assertion that a state cause of action may also require resolution of a federal question.

Torres said while the case referred by Star Marianas does cite the legal proposition that a well-pleaded complaint alleging a state cause of action may also arise under federal law if the resolution of the claim requires resolution of a federal question, Star Marianas has not cited any authority for its proposition that an alleged violation of the rates and charges policy is a violation of a federal law.

He said whether or not CPA has violated the rates and charges policy or its grant assurances are issues for resolution by the FAA as they relate to the reasonableness of rates.

Torres said the FAA has primary jurisdiction over alleged violations and that Star Marianas has failed to exhaust its administrative remedies.

The lawyer said fees in written agreements are also under FAA purview.

He also stated that there is no jurisdiction under the federal preemption provision of the Airline Deregulation Act.

Torres said Star Marianas is cloaking its plain breach-of-contract claim by citing the Anti Head Tax Act, the Rates and Charges Policy, grant assurances, and the Airline Deregulation Act.

"A closer look at each federal cloak reveals that SMA's claims of jurisdiction fail," Torres said.

In its lawsuit originally filed last year, Star Marianas sued CPA and five unnamed co-defendants for breach of contract, violation of the Anti-Head Tax, and unreasonable user fees.

Star Marianas, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, asked the court to hold CPA liable to pay the company damages in an amount to be proven at trial, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Star Marianas entered in 2009 an agreement with CPA, which controls and op-

erates the airports in the CNMI, to lease and use areas of the commuter terminals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Under the agreement, Star Marianas agreed to adhere to the CPA Airport Rules and Regulations, and to pay a departure facility charge, international arrival facility charge, and in-transit passenger service charge.



Torres

Shelter might be unusable after renovations

One of two primary shelters under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs might not be used as a shelter once current renovations are completed.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the Kagman Community Center renovation would take at least a year to finish, since both the interior and exterior is being renovated.

"We are going to work to try and see it designed so that it can be used as a shelter if necessary," Hunter said.

He noted, though, that the center is being renovated to have state-of-the-art facilities such as sound and stage equipment; seating; recreational rooms; libraries; and more.

"...I am not sure it is going to be conducive as a shelter anymore because if we are putting high-tech equipment and stuff like that in an audi-

torium that could be used for theater and all sorts of community-type activities, I don't know if we are going to want to stuff a hundred people in there during a disaster. I just don't know if that is going to be the venue for [a shelter]," Hunter said.

"We are planning to set up a state-of-the-art community center there with expensive equipment for special-needs children and things like that," he said.

Hunter emphasized that plans have yet to be finalized, however, in the event that DCCA does push through with the renovations, he does not want to see equipment damaged by "shelter use."

According to Hunter, the Emergency Management Office designates facilities that could act as shelters in the event of a natural disaster, such as earthquakes or typhoons. *(Erwin Encinares)*

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 2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC 4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T WAS \$26,899 NOW \$23,999*	 2013 Tacoma DC, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-038T NOW \$28,899*	 2018 Sienna LE Minivan 4-dr, V-6, 3.5-liter, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U18-062L NOW \$35,699*	 2018 Sienna LE Minivan 4-dr, V-6, 3.5-liter, Auto, FWD, White, STK#U18-063L NOW \$35,699*	 2015 Nissan Xterra Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-035T WAS \$27,999 NOW \$25,999*

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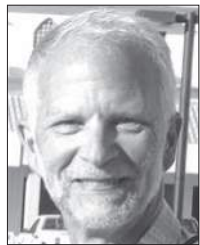
EPA engineer notes CUC's progress on many projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's designated representative and project coordinator for stipulated order number 2 has noted that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to make progress on various projects

that are funded by the technical manager for oil fund.

In his court declaration, environmental engineer Russell Mechem II disclosed that Tank 104 at CUC's power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base has



Mechem II

been demolished, and the area will now be used as a staging area.

The damaged and corroded roof for the drum storage area has been replaced, he added.

Bradley R. O'Brien, senior lawyer of

the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, filed Mechem's declaration in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week in support of the U.S. government's August status report.

Mechem said old fuel piping from Tanks 102 and 103 at Power Plant 1 has

been removed.

In addition, he said, procurement is proceeding on several new Technical Manager for Oil projects. Those projects include asbestos-covered pipe removal for power plants 1 and 2; secondary containment repairs and coating on Rota; cleaning inspections; and repairs for Tanks A and D at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico; and some training and equipment purchases for Saipan and Rota.

Although fruitful discussions have been ongoing, Mechem said the parties will take advantage of a status conference to further define upcoming SO2 projects.

SO2 focuses on oil issues

and also applies to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

In addition to evaluating potential projects, he said, the parties will meet to discuss how to utilize the TMO fund versus Engineering and Environmental Management Company funding.

The engineer said they will also discuss how to identify which SO2 tasks should be completed by CUC versus the EEMC, so that projects will be cost-efficient and done on time.

He said the technical teams will meet on Saipan prior to the status conference in order to inspect potential project locations and to evaluate options.



FLOODED ISLAND

Photos shows the flooded portions of Saipan yesterday after heavy rains brought by Typhoon Cimaron dumped 8 inches of rain on Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA/JON PEREZ

Hit-and-run suspect out on \$2.5K bail

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the twin brothers who were allegedly involved in a hit-and-run of a Chinese tourist was allowed Friday to post just 10 percent of his initial bail of \$25,000.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted the bail modification request of Vicente Muña that would allow him to post bail.

Vicente Muña and his twin brother, Anthony Muña, allegedly mowed down a female tourist who was walking on the shoulder of Beach Road. The two were also allegedly involved in several robbery cases victimizing tourists in

Marpi and in Garapan.

Vicente Muña's bail modification came with restrictions, prohibiting any contact with his brother and that he would be closely supervised by his third-party custodian, Brenda Muña.

Muna is also prohibited from traveling and he is required to show up for all court hearings as well as keep in contact with his probation officer.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Muña twins were arrested on charges of attempted robbery, conspiracy to attempt robbery, driving on highways laned for traffic, driving on right side of highway, reckless driving,

driving under the influence of drugs, and accident.

In a separate case, Muña was arrested on two counts of conspiracy to theft, theft, criminal mischief, and burglary, while his brother, Anthony Muña, 22, was arrested on charges of two counts of conspiracy to theft, and one count of theft.

Muña was served with an arrest warrant back in July.

Camacho imposed \$50,000 cash bail each on defendants for the robbery case and imposed the \$25,000 cash bail each on defendants for the hit-and-run case.

In the hit-and-run case, Department of Public Safety received a call about the incident last June 8 at 1:31pm,

in which a dark four-door sedan hit one of the two female tourists who were walking on the northbound shoulder of Beach Road.

The victim suffered abrasions to the body and head injuries.

Further review of the surveillance footages of the incident showed the right headlamp of the car had damage due to the collision.

The footage also showed that the front passenger attempted to snatch the tourist's purse.

After an extensive search around the island, the vehicle—a turquoise 2010 Toyota Corolla with license plate ACA-729—was found.

The car, which had damage on the right front headlamp, was then impounded for evidence.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Transfer station, landfill closed on Sat.

In observance of Labor Day festivities, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed all day on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018. Normal operations will resume on Monday, Aug. 27, 2018. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) today, Aug. 21, from 2pm to 4:30pm, and on Aug. 22 and 23, from 9am to 3pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

Military training at FDM, in waters around Guam

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is doing training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Aug. 26, from 7am to 11pm. Training will also take place in waters near Guam, west of Apra Harbor within a five-mile nautical radius, today, Aug. 21, from noon to 10pm, and on Aug. 23-24, from 10pm to 12:30am. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on FDM will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Video presentation on Amelia Earhart

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument, Inc. Group will be featuring a special video presentation on Amelia Earhart at the American Memorial Park on Aug. 23, Thursday, at 7pm. Admission is free and all are invited. This video will feature our Chamorro elders who have seen Amelia Earhart here on Saipan in 1937. Come, listen, and talk stories about a woman who opened doors, opportunities, set records, and impacted the world, the U.S., Pacific region, Micronesia, and Saipan. Another presentation will be announced at a later date for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. (PR)

Veterans affairs visit to Saipan

A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits counselor will be at the CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office on Sept. 5, 2018, from 9am to 4pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office is located at 1364 Anatahan Dr., Capital Hill, Saipan. If you have questions, contact Bernadita Dela Cruz at (670) 664-2650/2651. (PR)

Public library closed on Aug. 25

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in celebration of CNMI Labor Day. The library will reopen with regular hours on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018. For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmlib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joetenkiyu. Follow us on Instagram @joetenkiyu. The library's hours of operation are as follows: from Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm; Saturday, from 9am to 4pm; and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. (PR)



CANOE HOUSE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, poses with other Department of Community and Cultural Affairs staff and the monkey pod trunk that will be made into a keel for a canoe. Construction on the new canoe house in Susupe was officially done last Friday, with a blessing ceremony that signaled the project's completion. The Canoe House, owned by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, is part of the DCCA Seafaring program and is modeled after the traditional architecture of ancient Chamorro huts, made of the same materials used in ancient times. The hut is located near the Naked Fish restaurant in Susupe.

ERWIN ENCINARES

6 years in jail for dousing woman with gas, starting fire

» Prosecutor says domestic violence crosses all boundaries

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man accused of dousing his girlfriend with gasoline and setting fire to their house pleaded guilty last week in the Superior Court and was slapped with six years imprisonment.

John Piteg Teregeyo, 25, pleaded guilty to arson (domestic violence) and assault and battery (domestic violence) as part of a plea deal.

Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan sentenced Teregeyo to 11 years imprisonment, all but six years suspended, with the possibility of parole.

After serving the prison term, Teregeyo will be placed on five years of probation, during which he will be required to stay 1,000 feet away from the victim and have no contact with her.

He is barred from handling guns and required to perform 200 hours of community service. He is also required to undergo a batterer's intervention course, on top of paying court costs and fines, and restitution.

The judge also prohibited Teregeyo from going to bars, from drinking alcoholic beverages, or using drugs.

The government dropped the other charges against Teregeyo.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Teregeyo.

Assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio cited last week's case, when Sylvestre R. Sablan was sentenced to 30 years for the brutal and senseless murder of his wife.

Two days later, Tenorio said, Teregeyo pleaded guilty to arson (domestic violence)

and assault and battery (domestic violence) against a household member.

Tenorio said it's been said that domestic violence is a family matter, but that's a misnomer.

"Domestic violence goes beyond the reach of the fist to its intended victim," she said, adding that domestic violence hurts everyone. "It crosses all boundaries of race, ethnicity, education, age, religion, economic background, physical ability, and sexual orientation."

The effects, she said, transcend the family and society will continue to pay the cost until the community—men and women—come together with a unified condemnation of abuse and a promise that children in the CNMI will learn that violence is never justified.

Tenorio said the Office of the Attorney General remains committed to prosecuting crimes involving domestic violence in an effort to hold offenders accountable for their

actions and to save lives, or, in the worst of cases, to seek justice for those who no longer have a voice.

Teregeyo allegedly attempted to kill his then-girlfriend by dousing her, her clothes, their bed, and their bedroom with gasoline and pushing her inside the bedroom to prevent her from fleeing as he set the room on fire.

The prosecution said that police, firefighters, and medics arrived at the smoldering

residence and found the victim hiding at a nearby house, drenched in gasoline.



Tenorio

Witnesses described the victim as panicked and in fear of her life when she managed to escape the house and flee to safety.

Teregeyo was allegedly attempting to leave the scene but was spotted by two police officers, who managed to prevent him from fleeing.

The victim told police that she and Teregeyo were

having an argument in the house's bedroom when he went outside, brought in a container filled with gasoline, and spilled it around the entrance of the bedroom, inside the bedroom, and on her body last Oct. 20.

She said Teregeyo also choked and pushed her. He then allegedly shoved a shirt in her mouth.

The OAG charged Teregeyo with attempted first-degree murder, arson, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—all related to domestic violence.

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UOG names new administrators

The University of Guam announced yesterday the following new administrators:



ALICIA C. AGUON, PH.D.

Dean, School of Education

Alicia C. Aguon has been selected as the dean of the School of Education following four years as interim associate dean of the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. Aguon has been with UOG for 24 years, formerly as an associate professor of Mathematics. In that time, she has also served as project director for various grants including the Kubre grant, the Content Area Specialized Teachers grant, the Mathematics Area Specialized Teachers grant, and the Bringing Algebra & Science into Classroom Settings grant. She has also been the coordinator for the university's Developmental Math Program. She previously spent seven years teaching middle and high school in the Guam Department of Education.

Aguon holds a 1981 bachelor's in mathematics from the University of Guam, a 1988 master's in education curriculum and instruction from the University of Hawaii, and a 2003 doctorate in mathematics education from The Union Institute and University in Ohio.

ADRIAN ARES, PH.D.

Interim associate director, Western Pacific Tropical Research Center

Adrian Ares joins UOG as the interim associate director of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center within the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. He comes to Guam from Virginia Tech, where he served as program director for the Feed the Future Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resource Management program, which assisted small landholders



in Africa, Asia, and Latin America improve food productivity and security. In his role at UOG, he will oversee research activities and manage research funds from grants.

He holds a 1983 bachelor's in forest engineering from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Argentina, a 1991 master's in soil science from the Universidad Nacional del Sur in Argentina, and a 1998 doctorate in agronomy and soil science with a minor in botany from the University of Hawaii.



SEREANA H. DRESBACH, PH.D.

Associate director, Cooperative Extension & Outreach

Sereana H. Dresbach joins UOG as the associate dean and director of the Cooperative Extension & Outreach program within the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. In this role, she will administer the program and funds, build its profile in the national system, and deliver research-based information to the community. Her career includes 25 years as a consultant, two years as deputy director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and nine years as an education director at the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at Ohio State University.

She holds 1984 bachelor's degrees in education and political science from Iowa State University, 1987 master's degrees in geography and recreation as well as statistics from the University of Wyoming, and a 1992 degree in agricultural economics and rural sociology from Ohio State University.



RACHAEL T. LEON GUERRERO, PH.D., R.D.N.

Interim director, Research & Sponsored Programs

Rachael T. Leon Guerrero now heads the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs following three and a half years as associate director of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center. In her new capacity, she will collaborate with the university's research centers on research agendas that support UOG's mission of engagement.

Leon Guerrero has been with UOG for 20 years, the majority of that time as a professor of Nutrition in the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. She is the principal investigator of the U54 Cancer Research Partnership Grant and co-investigator of the Pacific Islands Cohort on Cardiometabolic Health Study. She holds a 1989 bachelor's in biology from UOG, a 1992 master's in nutrition from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a 1998 doctorate in nutrition from Colorado State University.

KATHLEEN A. MOOTS, PH.D.

Interim associate dean, College of Natural & Applied Sciences

Kathleen A. Moots moves into the role of interim associate dean of the College of Natural & Applied Sciences. She has been with the university since 2006 serving as an adjunct assistant professor, an assistant professor, and then an associate profes-



the University of Arizona.

CARLOS R. TAITANO

Director, Professional & International Programs

sor of biology. In her new capacity, Moots will assist the dean of CNAS in all aspects of the academic endeavor of the college, including assessment, budgeting, planning, scheduling, and strategic growth.

Moots served as president of the Faculty Senate last academic year. She holds a 1979 bachelor's and a 1985 master's in zoology from the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia, respectively. She also holds a 1987 master's and a 1996 doctorate in systematics and ecology, both from the University of Kansas.



MONIQUE C. STORIE, PH.D.

Interim dean, University Libraries

Monique C. Storie has been named the interim dean of University Libraries, overseeing the daily operations of the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center, the RFK Memorial Library, University of Guam Press, and the building of the Guam Cultural Repository. She was previously director of MARC and interim director of the RFK Memorial Library.

Storie holds a bachelor's in Spanish from Arizona State University, a master's in library science, and a doctorate in language reading and culture, the latter two from



academic year following her term as vice president last year. As president, she will represent faculty at academic functions and at university meetings on academic matters.

She has served on various university committees in the past several years and last year chaired the CLASS Curriculum Committee. She is the adviser for the Political Science Student Association and for Pi Sigma Alpha.

Cruz holds a 2000 bachelor's in political science and communications from UOG, a 2003 master's in political science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a 2012 doctorate in political science with a specialization in indigenous politics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



ROSEANN M. JONES, PH.D.

President, Faculty Union

Roseann M. Jones, a professor of Economics with the School of Business & Public Administration, will serve as president of the Faculty Union for the 2018-2019 academic year. She served as vice president in 2017 and has been a board member of the union since 2016.

Jones, who first joined UOG in 1998 as an associate professor of Economics and Policy Planning, chairs the Business Administration Division within SBPA and has previously chaired the university's Department of Economics & Finance and Master of Business Administration Program. She also served as president of the Faculty Senate from 2008-2012 and vice president in 2007.

Jones holds master's degrees in government administration and city and regional planning and a doctorate in economics, regional planning and policy, all from the University of Pennsylvania. (PR)



MARY THERESE F. CRUZ, PH.D.

President, Faculty Senate

Mary Therese F. Cruz, an assistant professor of Political Science, Chamorro Studies, and Micronesian Studies in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, was elected president of the 18th Faculty Senate for the 2018-2019

ESGR unveils new office

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first office in the CNMI of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve opened over Friday with a blessing ceremony presided by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez.

In a short ceremony, the Saipan Mayor's Office held an office blessing for the ESGR office, which is right inside the Saipan Mayor's Office building.

"This is something that we have been dreaming about," said ESGR area chair for the CNMI Area Committee Rose Igitol. "Now that we have the office space, courtesy of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang himself...we now have space to come together and work."

Igitol noted that the ESGR area committee in the CNMI currently has three staff, including herself. Previously, ESGR meetings were held in their own personal homes.

"It was very difficult [in the past] to come together and meet... Now we are in one area, and so we just come here and meet," she said.

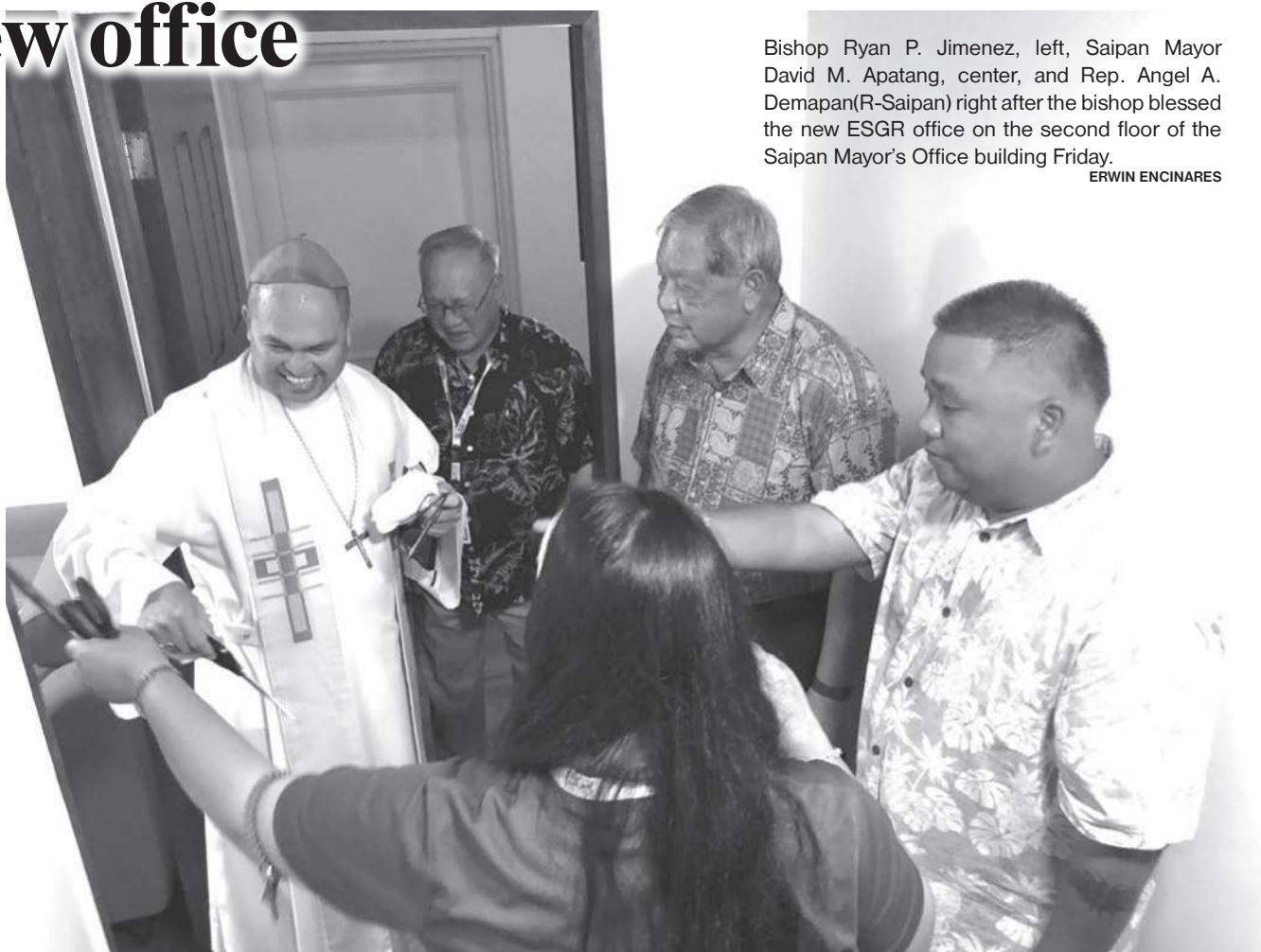
The new ESGR office is a room on the second floor of the Saipan Mayor's Office building right next to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The room is just enough to house the three staff of the ESGR, complete with its own air conditioning and a reception area.

"It's actually the mayor's office that donated the space," said Igitol, adding that the ESGR did not have the budget to rent an office of its own.

In an interview, Apatang said that his office is currently working on a memorandum of understanding to make the ESGR office official.

"It's just to accommodate them so they have a place to work out of," said Apatang, adding that members of the National Guard and military Reserves now have an office to go to when they need official assistance.

"I always love to work and take care of our troops so that they do not have any problem when they come back from deployment and all that," said Apatang.



Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, left, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, center, and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) right after the bishop blessed the new ESGR office on the second floor of the Saipan Mayor's Office building Friday.
ERWIN ENCINARES

When asked if he is worried about the office being kicked out in case of a change in the mayoral administration after this year's elections, Apatang said he wasn't.

"I am sure that whoever is going to be [Saipan mayor] is going to be understanding

and their commitment to our soldiers that are deployed and coming back," he said.

Education Summit in September

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting its members to be a part of a gathering of the Commonwealth's educational and workforce stakeholders, leaders, agencies, advocates, and policy makers as they discuss the future of education and workforce development in CNMI.

The 2018 Education Summit, organized by representatives of the Northern Marianas College, Public School System, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, CNMI Scholarship Office, and other agencies, will be held on Sept 6-8, 2018, at the Saipan World Resort.

The summit aims to lay the foundation of a long-term education plan for the CNMI by providing a forum where key issues like identifying occupational and career trends and building economic and educational opportunities can be discussed.

There is no fee to attend the Education summit; however, seats are limited. Register as soon as possible by visiting www.marianas.edu (and click on the Education Summit graphic). For more information, email victoria.dlguerrero@marianas.edu. (PR)

GMS welcomes students to new school year



Green Meadow School students enjoy the arts and crafts activities after school at its Chalan Kiya campus.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School welcomed nearly 150 students to the new school year at its Chalan Kiya and Gualo Rai campuses last Aug. 13.

"Summer vacation is over, but the fun will continue as the new school year begins. You'll get to learn new things, meet new friends, and discover something new and better about yourselves. Welcome and make your parents and GMS proud," said GMS principal Milagros Songcuan.

She assured that GMS teachers and staff are prepared for the new school year. "Our staff went through various professional development seminars during the summer to get them equipped with sufficient

knowledge and experience in the subjects they are teaching," Songcuan said. Aside from regular class-

room work, GMS teachers have also scheduled a host of academic and extra-curricular activities for students. The Falcons will be participating in the Academic Bee, a sports festival, a retreat, Math Court, school gardening, STEM Fair, Primary Grade Forensics Competition, National Junior Speech and Debate Association, Junior Thespian Society, Harvest Day, PEP Rally, Christmas in the Marianas, and other activities and competitions for both public and private schools in the CNMI.

GMS also regularly takes part in community events and hosts family activities for its students in the pre-school, elementary, and middle school departments.

"At GMS, we aspire to have well-rounded students so we encourage them to get involved in activities in the community," Songcuan said.

Seventh-grader Areeza Gaile Anda is also excited for what's in store for students this school year. "I am particularly excited for the extra-curricular activities. I think this year a lot of us have a strong potential to make it to the nationals for the NJSDA and Junior Thespian. I am really hoping for a great year," she said.

Anda also said she and her classmates know they will be facing challenges this year as they are getting closer to high school.

"Now that we are in seventh grade, it's going to be a lot harder unlike previous years. We really have to focus and must not procrastinate. We have to get things done on time. It will be tough, but we know we can count on our teachers to help us get through these tests," she added. (PR)



Green Meadow School's sixth graders concentrate on their seatwork during the opening week of classes.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Why was a Trump staffer able to make a secret recording inside the Situation Room?

For a place that most of us will never see firsthand, the White House Situation Room conjures vivid mental images: gleaming high-tech military coordination, late-night strategy meetings with global implications and, most of all, security. It was the place from which top officials directed the 2011 operation against al-Qaida leader Osama Bin Laden. Surely this is the most secure room in the world. At least, it should be.

What it shouldn't conjure is the specter of some attention-seeking, former reality TV contestant waltzing in with a cellphone, which is prohibited there, and using it to secretly record the president's chief of staff—all while presumably sitting near classified visual, audio or electronic information that America's enemies would love to get their hands on. But such is the latest plotline in that wacky new reality TV hit, *The Donald Trump Presidency*.

The news that ex-presidential aide Omarosa Manigault Newman secretly recorded her own firing by chief of staff John Kelly in the Situation Room dramatically reminds us just how much President Trump's hiring criteria draw the kind of craven self-promoters and shallow opportunists who define his reality TV world. More importantly, it drives home the fact that even basic, competence-level security in this White House is dangerously inadequate. Congress should, immediately, get to the bottom of why this was allowed to happen, and whether it's happened before or since.

Like so many of the inhabitants of Trump World, it's always been difficult to take Omarosa (she prefers just that one name) very seriously. But here, some seriousness is required.

Former CIA analyst Ned Price noted in an outraged series of online comments that it's not remotely normal for someone to sneak a phone into the "Sit Room," or for the room to be used to handle personnel matters in the first place. "This is bigger than Omarosa," he wrote. "It's a culture of disregard for our natl security."

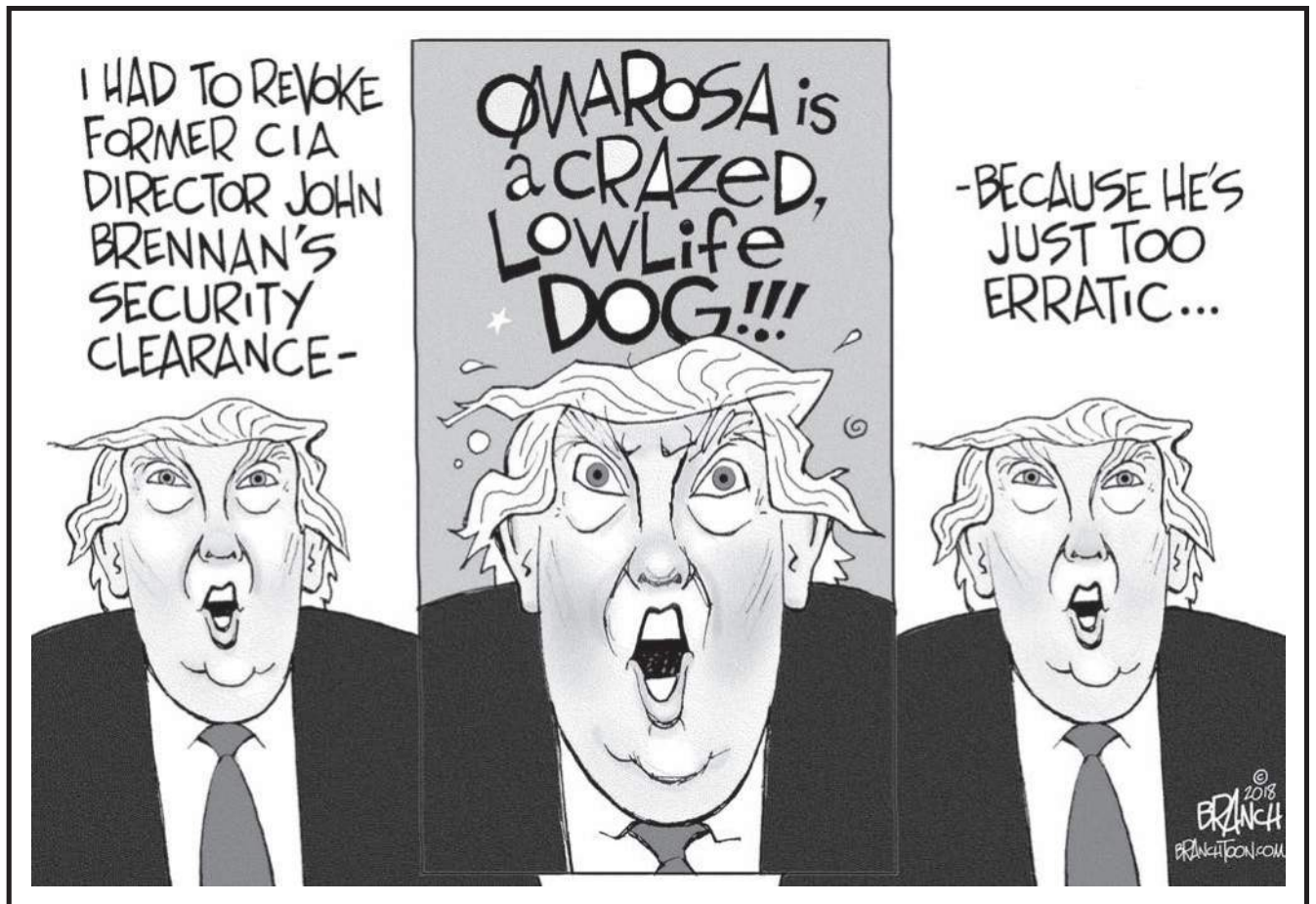
The nightmare scenario doesn't take much imagination. "If Omarosa carried for example a cellphone into the Situation Room," tweeted David Frum, senior editor at *The Atlantic*, "then not only did she record conversations there, but so potentially has any country or criminal organization that thought to hack her phone."

Bizarrely, the White House issued a statement basically agreeing, and leaving it at that. The "very idea a staff member would sneak a recording device into the White House Situation Room shows a blatant disregard for our national security," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in the statement.

So it's the loose-cannon staffer's fault—and no one else's—that a loose-cannon staffer was allowed to do this. End of discussion.

Responsible presidential administrations address lapses, which is the only way to fix them. This White House, of course, won't. Congress should.

(c)2018 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



A dog's letter to President Trump: Stop calling humans 'dogs'

A quick note of protest to President Donald Trump, from my large and very good dog. (She dictated, I typed, as the size of keyboard keys are discriminatory against large-pawed animals. More on that issue in another column.)

Dear Large Human President:

I do not usually pay attention to human politics. I prefer more pleasant things like sniffing my friends' butts or rolling on a dead bird in the backyard or eating things that will make me throw up.

Mainly sniffing butts, though. I'll sniff anyone's butt, really.

Sorry. I am a bad dog for digressing into my love of butts.

Anyway, I am writing because I have noticed that you keep comparing human beings to dogs. I know this because I hear the television news humans talking about it on almost every station. (I no longer watch Fox News because, after many years of promises, I have yet to see a single fox I can bark at. That is false advertising and I am sad about it.)

I asked my human to collect a sample of the times you have called people dogs, and he did so while I barked at a squirrel. (I hate squirrels. Can you please deport them?)

Just this week, you described Omarosa Manigault Newman, a human female person who worked for you, as "that dog."

You also sent the following things on Twitter, which is something my human stares at when he should be scratching me behind my ears or taking me outside to bark at stupid terrorist squirrels:

"Mitt Romney had his chance to beat a failed president but he choked like a dog."

"@DavidGregory got thrown off of TV by NBC, fired like a dog!"

"@WErickson got fired like a dog from RedState and now he is the one leading opposition against me."

"@BrentBozell, one of the National Review lightweights, came to my office begging for money like a dog."

"Ted Cruz lifts the Bible high into the air and then lies like a dog—over and over again!"

You also called a female human named Arianna Huffington "a dog."

On behalf of myself and my friends I must protest. You seem to be using the word "dog" as an insult.

I do not think that makes sense.

For example, I know that I am a very good dog. I know this because my human says it all the time, and even asks me to confirm his statement.

He'll ask, "Who's a good dog?"

And I will wag my tail very hard and respond, "Oh! Oh! It's me! It's definitely me!"

By **REX HUPPKE**
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.



And then, because he is very thorough and does not like to make mistakes, he will double-check.

"Who's a goooooood dog?" he'll say.

And I will then begin to prance a bit and sometimes spin in a circle while still wagging my tail very hard and I'll say, "IT'S ME, IT'S ME, IT'S ME! I AM VERY DEFINITELY THE ONE WHO IS A GOOD DOG!!!"

I am also very loyal. I will follow my human anywhere and I love him so much I can barely stand it. Dogs are loyal and beautiful and loving, except to squirrels and sometimes cats, although that whole relationship is rather misunderstood because we really just want to sniff their butts. It's kind of our thing.

I think you are calling people dogs because you think that makes them less than human. My human says that's something that "fascists" do. I don't know what that means, but it makes me think you are not being a good boy.

But it also seems like you are not being smart, because dogs are wonderful and intelligent and filled with love, and I do not think you were trying to call Omarosa or Mitt Romney or Ted Cruz or any of those other humans wonderful or intelligent or loving.

I think you were trying to be mean and insulting to them. And that makes me want to growl at you.

Bad large human president! Bad!

I understand you are the first president since William McKinley to not have a dog. That's weird. You don't have any animal friends, and that makes me suspicious.

In conclusion, and on behalf of all good dogs out there, I request that you stop referring to humans as dogs and start realizing that humans and dogs are both great and deserve respect and lots and lots of Milk-Bones. (Preferably the peanut-butter-flavored ones.)

Thank you, and please consider my suggestion that you deport all the squirrels. I really think they're up to something.

Sincerely,

—Rex Huppke's very good dog.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Friends, laughter fill my ‘one life to live’

Finish the following sentence: “If I’ve only one life, let me live it as a ...” “You’d think there’d be a lot of ways to fill in that blank, wouldn’t you?”

You might be tempted to reply: “If I’ve only one life, let me live it as a research scientist who discovers how to engineer new colonies on Mars where human beings could establish self-sustaining cultures untainted by the specter of sin or degradation because there would be no competition for resources.”

Or you could keep it local and say, “If I’ve only one life, let me live it caring generously and thoughtfully for others, making our world safer, happier and kinder.”

But if you grew up in the ‘60s, especially if you grew up as a girl in the ‘60s, you know there’s only one way to complete that statement: “If I’ve only one life, let me live it as a blonde.” For full effect, say it with breathless yet subdued enthusiasm.

You could be a blonde shoplifter, a blonde arsonist or a blonde money launderer. (In this last case, Madge the manicurist would keep your hands clean by putting them in Palmolive dish detergent and announce “you’re soaking in it.”) So long as you’re blonde, you’re fine.

Basically, in 1967, bleaching your hair was all you had to do to achieve selfhood. Blondes had more fun, right? As soon as Clairol colored your hair, life was guaranteed to be nice and easy. This is what I learned when I was 10 years old and reading ladies’ magazines with the same focused zealotry use by fanatics when studying political tracts.

I knew it would take years of preparation to get me where I needed to be. Like every other preteen, I was in desperate training for adolescence. I wanted to be Twiggy. The fact that I probably weighed more at age 10 than Twiggy did at age 18 didn’t derail my dream. Becoming part of the teen scene sounded cool, in part because it came with accessories and gender-specific hair products, even though in Twiggy’s case it didn’t seem to come with secondary sex characteristics.

Being a teenager also came with the promise of everlasting love. I still have the copy of a Seventeen magazine ad for the Arpeja clothes collection featuring a sketch of girl and her bio: “She’s a Luv! She went to school in London, studied hard, and got a PHD ... his name is Reggie.”

She’s wearing a miniskirt and a blouse with balloon sleeves and a beret so poufy it looks like a Jiffy Pop bag. Does it matter that the designation for a doctorate is incorrect? Nah. Does it matter that the supposedly trick punch line is that the girl who goes abroad to study can only bring home a Ph.D. by dragging some poor slob to the altar? Nope.

After 28 years of therapy and a lifetime of reading about women and men, I’ve come to realize that the foundation for my thoughts considering the nature of traditional feminine and masculine roles emerged less from philosophers I read in college than from ads for products I saw advertised before hitting puberty than I’d like to imagine.

Here’s an influential doozy: In one of what must have been a hun-

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



dred similar ads from 1967, a man and a woman are running with open arms through a meadow and toward each other. You hear and see another famous Clairol catch phrase: “The closer he gets ... the better you look.” The underlying assumption, of course, was that if a guy noticed your roots he’d scream and make a run for it.

Ah, but sometimes things get better. In 51 years, things have changed. We can indeed invent new phrases to fill in old blanks. As my Facebook friends demonstrate, there are more clever and poignant replies one can now make. When hearing “The closer he gets...,” other responses might include, “The quicker I do a background check” (Lynne Ferrigno), “The more pepper spray you use” (Jim Strillacci), and “The better Canada looks” (Robin Hauser Franklin).

If I’ve only one life to live, let me live it being grateful for my friends and, oh please, let me live it laughing out loud.

A White House enemies list. Hmm, where have we heard that before?

President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that in addition to stripping former CIA director John Brennan of his security clearance, he’s reviewing the clearances of nine other former top government officials who have—in some cases harshly—criticized the president. Yes, the president has an enemies list.

How Nixonian of him.

Until Trump came along, President Richard M. Nixon was probably the nation’s most paranoid president—and a man who, like Trump, had few qualms about abusing the power of his office.

The Nixon enemies list came to light during former White House aide John Dean’s testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee; Dean would later serve four months in prison for obstruction of justice in connection with the burglary of the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate complex.

The original enemies list was compiled by White House counsel office staffer George Bell, but the final selections were made by special counsel Charles Colson, who also would later serve seven months in prison for obstruction of justice in connection with the burglary of Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist’s office (related government misconduct led a judge to dismiss espionage charges against Ellsberg).

Nixon’s enemies list contained the name of critics of the president ranging from Edwin Guthman, a former press secretary for Bobby Kennedy and national editor here at the Times during the Nixon years, to Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers. Nixon and his minions had already been using government agencies such as the Internal Revenue Service to try to harass their political opponents, but the revelation of the list added a layer of sleaziness—as did the memo in which Dean wrote that the list could be used “to screw our political enemies.”

Trump’s enemies list is different, though. The Nixon list was a secret until Dean let the cat out of the bag. Trump heralded his list in a public statement released by the White House and read by press secretary Sarah Sanders during her press briefing Wednesday.

In Nixon’s hands, the list was a guide for targeting people for clandestine actions political dirty tricks. Trump’s list is, as my colleague Jon Healey argued Wednesday, an act of intimidation. Trump said in his statement that he acted because of Brennan’s “erratic conduct and behavior,” but later told the Wall Street Journal he targeted Brennan because he believed the former spy chief helped instigate the Russian collusion probe.

At heart these are the acts of a wannabe autocrat. Trump already has said he fired FBI director James Comey over the Russia investi-

By By SCOTT MARTELLE

Los Angeles Times



gation, has repeatedly attacked special counsel Mueller and his team, and has targeted individual FBI and Justice Department figures, all part of a relentless campaign to try to erode public confidence in Mueller’s independence and the veracity of whatever emerges.

That can and will do lasting damage to the country. Democracy relies on the confidence of the governed for its legitimacy, and we have in the Oval Office a flimflam man of the first order who cares little about the well-being of the people he supposedly is leading. And to date Trump’s fellow elected Republican leaders have stood mostly silent or vocally supportive while he has taken his rhetorical sledgehammer to the foundations of the government.

Voters ought to be keeping their own lists.

It’s time to decriminalize sex work

By DAVID ROSEN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Donald Trump’s presidency could mark a new phase in how America deals with prostitution, long considered the oldest profession. On April 11, the president signed an act that reconciled the Senate’s “Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act” and the House’s “Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act.” His action was aimed at restricting internet advertising of commercial sex services.

But for many Americans, prostitution has shifted from a moral issue, “sin,” to a legal one, “consent.” A May 2016 Marist poll found that 49 percent of Americans felt commercial sex between two consenting adults should be legal, and 44 percent opposed it. In addition, six in 10 respondents opposed criminal prosecution of those arrested for prostitution, while 53 percent believed decriminalizing prostitution would minimize risks to sex workers by providing regulation.

Prostitution is legal at about 20 brothels operating in seven rural counties in Nevada, and has long been generally accepted by a significant part of the populace. Rhode Island decriminalized

sex work for six years, from 2003 to 2009, and saw a significant decline in sexually transmitted diseases and rapes.

There are growing calls to decriminalize prostitution. Sex-worker advocacy groups like COYOTE (Call Off Your Old, Tired Ethics) as well as the World Health Organization have called to decriminalize non-trafficked — i.e., “consensual” — prostitution. And there have been legal challenges, like the lawsuit brought by San Francisco’s Erotic Service Providers Legal Education and Research Project challenging California’s laws against prostitution. It was not successful.

In October 2017, two city council members in Washington, D.C., introduced a bill to decriminalize sex work; it is still pending. New York state’s former chief judge, Jonathan Lippman, headed a special commission on criminal justice and incarceration reform that advocated for reclassifying prostitution as a civil offense rather than a criminal one.

One thing we know for certain: Criminalizing prostitution has not made it go away. Revenues for sex work in the United States are estimated at \$14.6 billion a year. The Fondation Scelles estimated in 2012 that there were 1 million prostitutes operating

across the country.

Decriminalization protects sex workers, reducing instances of STDs and sexual assaults while also curbing sex trafficking and the need for risk-laden street prostitution. More broadly, it allows the government to save money on enforcement while creating new tax revenue.






We live in an era when gun ownership is a constitutionally guaranteed right; when 30 states have decriminalized medical marijuana and nine states allow its recreational use by adults; the Supreme Court has just ruled that sports gambling is legal; and the commercial sex industry—sex toys, porn, enhancement drugs and more—is a multi-billion operation and an accepted part of American life.

It’s time to decriminalize sex work.

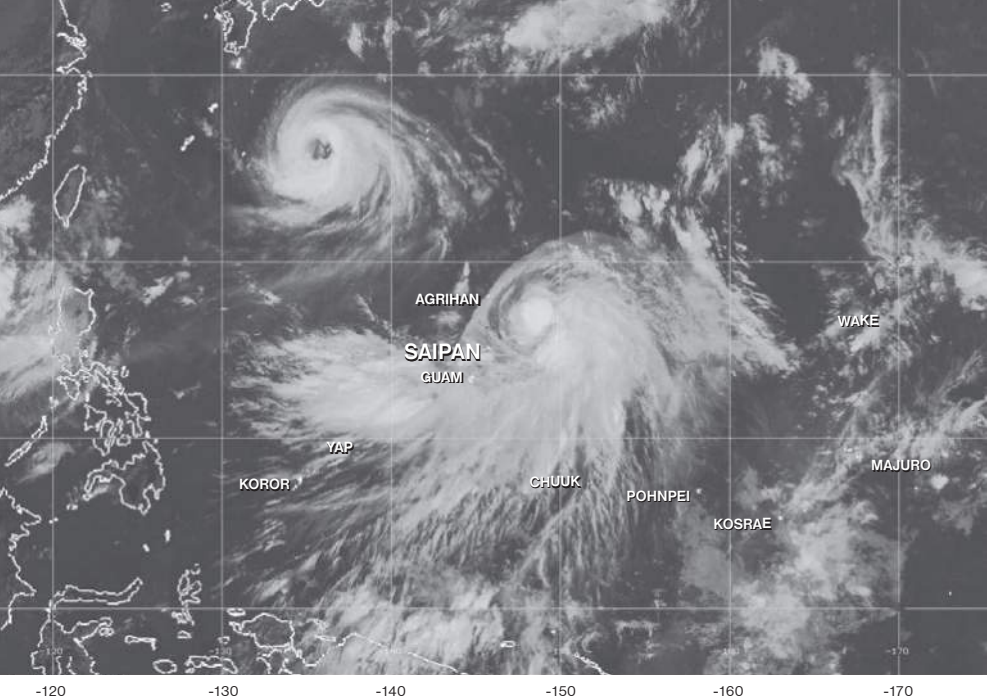
David Rosen of New York City is the author of the book Sin, Sex & Subversion: How What Was Taboo in 1950s New York Became America’s New Normal (Skyhorse, 2016). This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Windy. Cloudy. Rain with occasional heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	 Partly sunny with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:32 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest forecast track for Tropical Storm Cimaron now shows Saipan and Tinian within the area of tropical storm force winds. Therefore, the Tropical Storm Watch has been upgraded to a warning. Also, latest buoy observations show seas have increased to 10 feet at the Tanapag buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Rain	57° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
London	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°
Manila	Showers	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 73°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 82°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Thunderstorm	85° / 70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	97° / 81°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	90° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
2:45 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.66
10:26 AM	LOW TIDE	0.11
5:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
10:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:32 AM	2:44 PM
Wednesday	-	2:19 AM	3:33 PM
Thursday	-	3:07 AM	4:20 PM
Friday	-	3:56 AM	5:05 PM
Saturday	-	4:46 AM	5:49 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily	UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Trump administration less concerned about conserving oil

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conserving oil is no longer an economic imperative for the U.S., the Trump administration declares in a major new policy statement that threatens to undermine decades of government campaigns for

Suing over abusive manager is no simple matter

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.your-officecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: I think you are giving people some very bad advice. Whenever someone complains about a hot-tempered boss, you say they should talk with human resources or find another job. Wrong! These foul-mouthed managers need to go, and their companies should be sued for harassment. So the next time someone with a mean supervisor asks for help, tell them to document everything and find a lawyer.

A: Immature bosses who won't control their temper should definitely be removed from their positions. Someone that juvenile should never be allowed to supervise anyone. Unfortunately, these hotheads often report to timid or clueless managers who fail to enforce proper standards of leadership. Even worse, sometimes they own the business.

When employees are subjected to bad treatment by these dreadful bosses, their immediate reaction may be "I'm going to get a lawyer!" But while legal retribution has a strong emotional appeal, actually taking that step is much harder than people think.

The first hurdle is establishing grounds for legal action. Although employers are clearly liable for certain types of management misconduct, those cases must meet specific criteria. Since there is no blanket prohibition against rudeness or anger, finding legal justification is not always easy.

Even when grounds exist, taking your employer to court is not a simple matter. The process can be time-consuming and costly, and the outcome is often uncertain. Employees must also be prepared for the daily discomfort of being in an adversarial position to management. And while retaliation may be prohibited, only the most naïve would believe that it can't happen.

Labor laws are absolutely necessary to prevent employers from abusing their considerable power, so anyone with a clear case of discrimination, harassment or abuse may want to explore their legal options. Unfortunately, however, no legislation can make childish bosses act like professional adults.

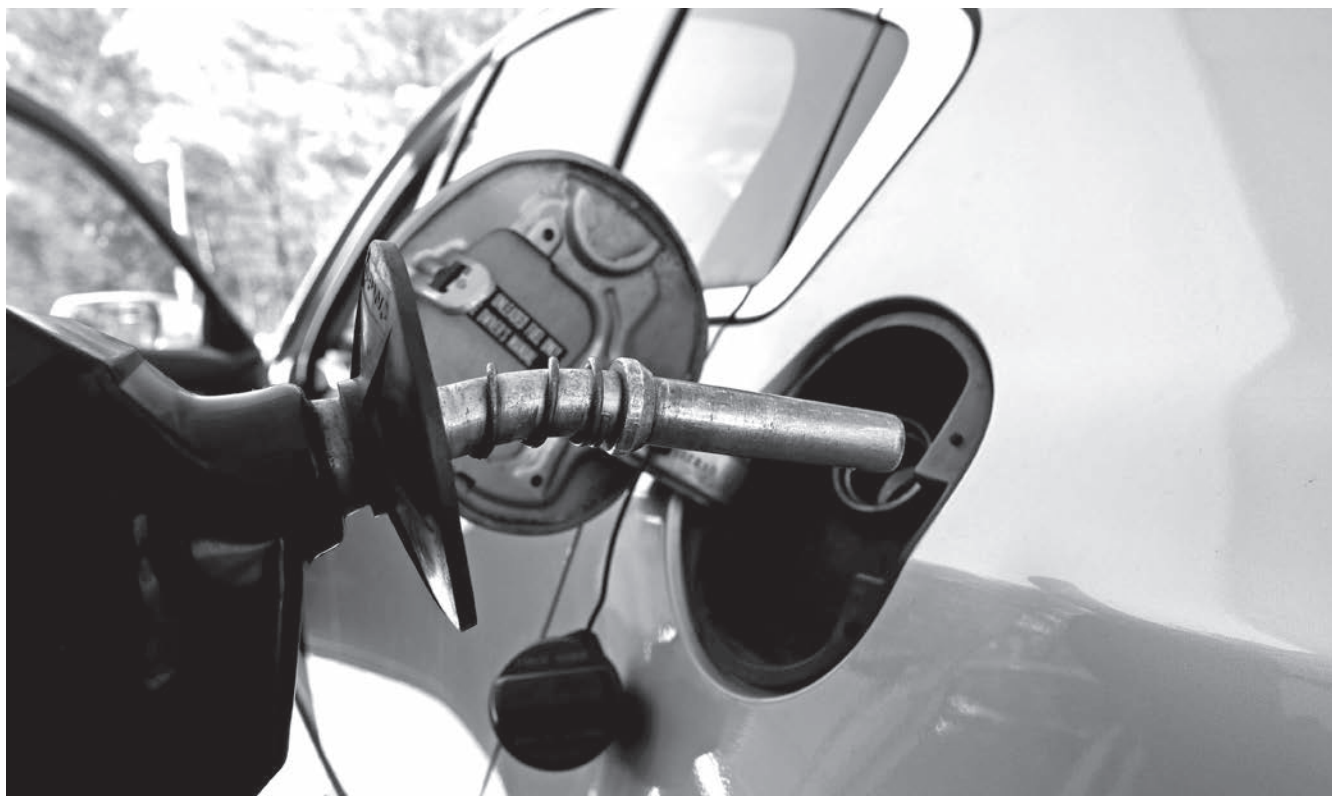
Q: I was recently asked to assume additional responsibilities with no extra pay. I work in a large medical practice as an executive assistant, which is definitely a full-time job. Yesterday, our office manager informed me that I will be expected to cover for a colleague while she's out on maternity leave.

For three months, I will apparently be handling all of her work as well as my own. When I asked if I would get a raise for doing two jobs, my manager literally laughed in my face. Doesn't this seem unfair?

A: Perhaps you should revisit this issue with a slightly different request. Asking for a raise generally implies a permanent change to one's base salary. Because this is only a short-term assignment, management would be unlikely to grant an ongoing increase.

But since you will presumably be burdened with considerable extra work, a one-time bonus would seem to be quite reasonable. If monetary compensation doesn't appear to be an option, you might ask for a few days off after your colleague returns.

Regardless of what you request, hopefully your next attempt will be met with a more mature response. Doing two jobs is bad enough, but working for someone who mocks you makes it worse.



In this April 23, 2018, file photo a car is filled with gasoline at a station in Windham, N.H.

AP

gas-thrifty cars and other conservation programs.

The position was outlined in a memo released last month in support of the administration's proposal to relax fuel mileage standards. The government released the memo online this month without fanfare.

Growth of natural gas and other alternatives to petroleum has reduced the need for imported oil, which "in turn affects the need of the nation to conserve energy," the Energy Department said. It also cites the now decade-old fracking revolution that has unlocked U.S. shale oil reserves, giving "the United States more flexibility than in the past to use our oil resources with less concern."

With the memo, the administration is formally challenging old justifications for conservation — even congressionally

prescribed ones, as with the mileage standards. The memo made no mention of climate change. Transportation is the single largest source of climate-changing emissions.

President Donald Trump has questioned the existence of climate change, embraced the notion of "energy dominance" as a national goal, and called for easing what he calls burdensome regulation of oil, gas and coal, including repealing the Obama Clean Power Plan.

Despite the increased oil supplies, the administration continues to believe in the need to "use energy wisely," the Energy Department said, without elaboration. Department spokesmen did not respond Friday to questions about that statement.

Reaction was quick.

"It's like saying, 'I'm a big old fat guy, and food prices

have dropped — it's time to start eating again,'" said Tom Kloza, longtime oil analyst with the Maryland-based Oil Price Information Service.

"If you look at it from the other end, if you do believe that fossil fuels do some sort of damage to the atmosphere ... you come up with a different viewpoint," Kloza said. "There's a downside to living large."

Climate change is a "clear and present and increasing danger," said Sean Donahue, a lawyer for the Environmental Defense Fund.

In a big way, the Energy Department statement just acknowledges the world's vastly changed reality when it comes to oil.

Just 10 years ago, in summer 2008, oil prices were peaking at \$147 a barrel and pummeling the global econ-

omy. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries was enjoying a massive transfer of wealth, from countries dependent on imported oil. Prices now are about \$65.

Today, the U.S. is vying with Russia for the title of top world oil producer. U.S. oil production hit an all-time high this summer, aided by the technological leaps of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

How much the U.S. economy is hooked up to the gas pump, and vice versa, plays into any number of policy considerations, not just economic or environmental ones, but military and geopolitical ones, said John Graham, a former official in the George W. Bush administration, now dean of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

Survey of economists: Some Trump policies could slow growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. business economists are concerned about the risks of some of President Donald Trump's economic policies, saying they fear his tariffs and higher budget deficits could eventually slow the economy.

More than 90 percent of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics in a report being released Monday said they think the Trump administration's current and threatened tariffs will harm the economy.

The administration has imposed tariffs on goods from many of America's main trading partners — from China and Europe to Mexico and Canada. Trump officials argue that the tariffs, which are

taxes on imports, will help the administration gain more favorable terms of trade. But so far, U.S. trading partners have simply retaliated with tariffs of their own.

Seven in 10 of the economists surveyed by the NABE said they thought Trump's tax cuts were "too stimulative" because of the resulting increase in the national debt, even though two-thirds said the corporate tax cuts generally benefit their companies.

The 251 respondents, surveyed between July 19 and Aug. 2, said they do envision some of Trump's policies as supporting the economy. Eighty percent, for example, told the NABE that the administration's efforts to ease regu-

lations would boost growth in the short run.

As a whole, though, the responses of the business economists represent a rebuke of the Trump administration's overall approach to the economy. The administration has been hailing a recent pickup in growth as heralding the start of an enduring and more vigorous economic boom.

Job gains have been solid, and the economy expanded at a brisk 4.1 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter. The Trump team has also portrayed a bump in retail sales and the confidence expressed in surveys of consumers and small businesses as evidence of more robust growth ahead.

"Our economy, our in-

vestors, our workforce are crushing it right now," Larry Kudlow, the top White House economic adviser, said at a Cabinet meeting Thursday. "Any business economist worth his or her salt would look at these trends and tell you we're going for a while."

But the surveyed business economists said they thought the \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade would produce higher budget deficits that should be reduced. The survey showed that while the economists expect the tax cuts to boost the economy this year, 62 percent forecast that the lower taxes would accelerate growth by an annual average of just 0.1 percent or less through 2027.

Nation

Trump calls Russia probe “McCarthyism at its ‘WORST’”

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—President Donald Trump insists that his White House counsel isn't a “RAT” like the Watergate-era White House attorney who turned on Richard Nixon, and he is blasting the ongoing Russia investigation as “McCarthyism.”

Trump, in a series of angry tweets, denounced a New York Times story that his White House counsel, Don McGahn, has been cooperating extensively with the special counsel team investigating Russian election meddling and potential collusion with Trump's Republican campaign.

“The failing @nytimes wrote a Fake piece today implying that because White House Counsel Don McGahn was giving hours of testimony to the Special Counsel, he must be a John Dean type ‘RAT,’” Trump wrote, misspelling the word “counsel.” “But I allowed him and all others to testify - I didn't have to. I have nothing to hide ...”

The New York Times said it stands by its story.

Dean, a frequent critic of the president, was the White House counsel for Nixon during the Watergate scandal. He ultimately cooperated with prosecutors and helped bring down the Nixon presidency in 1974, though he served a prison term for obstruction of justice.

Dean tweeted Saturday night in response to the Times story: “Trump, a total incom-



petent, is bungling and botching his handling of Russiagate. Fate is never kind to bunglers and/or botchers! Unlike Nixon, however, Trump won't leave willingly or graciously.”

He added Sunday in response to Trump's tweets that he doubts the president has “ANY IDEA what McGahn has told Mueller. Also, Nixon knew I was meeting with prosecutors, b/c I told him. However, he didn't think I would tell them the truth!”

Trump's original legal team had encouraged McGahn and other White House officials to cooperate with special counsel Robert Mueller, and McGahn spent hours in interviews.

Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, said in an appearance on NBC's “Meet the Press” that Trump didn't raise executive privilege or attorney-client privilege during those interviews because his team believed — he says now, wrongly — that fully par-

ticipating would be the fastest way to bring the investigation to a close.

“The president encouraged him to testify, is happy that he did, is quite secure that there is nothing in the testimony that will hurt the president,” Giuliani said.

McGahn's attorney William Burck added in a statement: “President Trump, through counsel, declined to assert any privilege over Mr. McGahn's testimony, so Mr. McGahn

Science says: Hotter weather turbocharges US West wildfires

As temperatures rise in the U.S. West, so do the flames.

The years with the most acres burned by wildfires have some of the hottest temperatures, an Associated Press analysis of fire and weather data found. As human-caused climate change has warmed the world over the past 35 years, the land consumed by flames has more than doubled.

Experts say the way global warming worsens wildfires comes down to the basic dynamics of fire. Fires need ignition, oxygen and fuel. And what's really changed is fuel—the trees, brush and other plants that go up in flames.

“Hotter, drier weather means our fuels are drier, so it's easier for fires to start and spread and burn more intensely,” said University of Alberta fire scientist Mike Flannigan.

It's simple, he said: “The warmer it is, the more fire we see.”

Federal fire and weather data show higher air temperatures are turbocharging fire season.

The five hottest Aprils to Septembers out West produced years that on average burned more than 13,500 square miles (35,000 square kilometers), according to data at the National Interagency Fire Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That's triple the average for the five coldest Aprils to Septembers.

The Western summer so far is more than 3 degrees Fahrenheit (1.7 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 20th century average. California in July logged its hottest month in 124 years of record-keeping.

In California, the five years with the most acres burned (not including this year) average 2.1 degrees warmer than the five years with the least acres burned.

A degree or two may seem like not much, but it is crucial for fuel. The hotter it is, the more water evaporates from plants. When fuel dries faster, fires spread more and burn more intensely, experts said.

For every 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit that the air warms, it needs 15 percent more rain to make up for the drying of the fuel, Flannigan said.

Fuel moisture levels in California and Oregon are flirting with record dry levels, NOAA western regional climate center director Tim Brown said.

And low humidity is “the key driver of wildfire spread,” according to University of Colorado fire scientist Jennifer Balch who says the Western U.S. soon will start to see wildfires of 1 million acres (1,562 square miles).

Veteran Colorado hotshot firefighter Mike Sugaski used to consider 10,000-acre (16-square-mile) fires big, now he fights ones 10 times that or more.

“You kind of keep saying, ‘How can they get much worse?’ But they do,” Sugaski said.

The number of U.S. wildfires hasn't changed much over the last few decades, but the area consumed has soared.

“The year 2000 seemed to

be some kind of turning point,” said Randy Eardley, the fire center's chief spokesman.

From 1983 to 1999, the United States didn't reach 10,000 square miles burned annually. Since then, 10 years have had more than 10,000 square miles burned, including 2017, 2015 and 2006 when more than 15,000 square miles burned.

Some people who reject mainstream climate science point to statistics that seem to show far more acres burned in the 1930s and 1940s. But Eardley said statistics before 1983 are not reliable because fires “may be double-counted, triple-counted or more.”

Nationally, more than 8,900 square miles (23,050 kilometers) have burned this year, about 28 percent more than the 10-year average as of mid-August. California is having one of its worst years.

Scientists generally avoid blaming global warming for specific extreme events without extensive analysis, but scientists have done those extensive examinations on wildfire.

AP
President Donald Trump waves as he arrives at the White House in Washington, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018, after spending the weekend at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J.

answered the Special Counsel team's questions fulsomely and honestly, as any person interviewed by federal investigators must.”

Trump on Sunday continued to rail against the Mueller investigation, which he has labeled a “witch hunt.”

“So many lives have been ruined over nothing - McCarthyism at its WORST!” Trump tweeted, referencing the indiscriminate and damaging allegations made by Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the 1950s to expose communists.

“Study the late Joseph McCarthy, because we are now in period with Mueller and his gang that make Joseph McCarthy look like a baby! Rigged Witch Hunt!” he later wrote.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police say Chicago teen killed himself; family denies he did

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities say a Chicago teenager killed himself after being chased by police, but his family thinks the officers shot him and they're calling for an independent investigation. The Chicago Tribune reports that police say 15-year-old Steve Rosenthal fled Friday when officers who allegedly saw him holding a handgun tried to question him. They say shortly after that he fatally shot himself on the back stairwell of his West Side home. The teen's family says based on witness accounts they believe the officers shot him. The family's attorney, Andrew Stroth, said Sunday that the officers killed Rosenthal “without cause or provocation” within moments of rushing up the stairwell. He says the family demands a “full, independent and transparent” investigation. More than 120 people gathered Sunday to protest the teen's death.

Records: Woman in slain girl's donation theft has crime past

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida woman accused of stealing a donation jar collecting money for the family of a slain 7-year-old girl has a lengthy criminal past. Local news outlets in Jacksonville reported that 46-year-old Tammy Wynnell Crews appeared Sunday in court on a grand theft charge. A judge who set bond at \$10,000. It wasn't im-

mediately clear if she has a lawyer. Records show Crews has been arrested 12 previous times and has multiple drug and prostitution convictions. Investigators say the jar containing about \$600 was taken from a restaurant near the site where Heidi Rivas Villanueva was killed on Aug. 11 in gun crossfire. The donations were intended to help with funeral expenses. Three people have been arrested on murder and other charges stemming from the killing.

Gov puts new limits on Alabama sheriffs for jail food funds

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey says the state comptroller has updated an agreement with county sheriffs to end a practice that let some of them pocket state money left over from inmate food programs. Al.com reports the affidavit that county sheriffs must sign effective Sept. 1 contains new language clarifying the use of jail food funds. It states they must agree funds will only be spent on “preparing food, serving food and other service incident to the feeding of prisoners.” The old version didn't specify use of funds. State Auditor Jim Ziegler says the move could cause issues. Critics argue only the Legislature can change how such funds are spent. Ivey last month told State Comptroller Kathleen Baxter to stop paying the food service allowance directly into sheriffs' personal bank accounts.

Asia

Quake swarm jolts Indonesian islands, killing at least 12

SEMBALUN, Indonesia (AP)—Multiple strong earthquakes killed at least a dozen people on the Indonesian islands of Lombok and Sumbawa as the region was trying to recover from a temblor earlier this month that killed hundreds of people.

A shallow magnitude 6.9 quake that hit about 10 p.m. was one of several powerful earthquakes Sunday in the northeast of Lombok that also caused landslides. The nighttime quake was followed by strong aftershocks.

At least 10 people on Lombok and neighboring Sumbawa island were killed by collapsing buildings or heart attacks, National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said Monday. Two people died earlier Sunday on Lombok during a magnitude 6.3 quake.

More than 1,800 houses were damaged, at least half of them severely, he said.

The swarm of quakes caused panic in Sembalun subdistrict on Lombok in the shadow of Mount Rinjani, but many people were already staying in tents following the deadly jolt in early August and its hundreds of aftershocks. On Sumbawa, a neighborhood was engulfed by a fire that started in a collapsed house.

"People panicked and scattered," Nugroho said. "Some people are hysterical because they feel earthquake aftershocks that are harder than before. They heard a roar that probably came from landslides in the hills and Mount Rinjani."

Dwikorita Karnawatim, who heads Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, said buildings that haven't collapsed so far have suffered repeated stress, and authorities have urged people to avoid both the mountain's slopes and weakened buildings.

Sunday night's tremor occurred on a different fault and was not an aftershock of the magnitude 7.0 quake on Aug. 5 that killed 460 people, damaged tens of thousands of homes and displaced several hundred thousand people.

The quake lasting five to 10 seconds also was felt in the neighboring island of Bali and as far away as East Java and Makassar in Sulawesi.

Quakes earlier Sunday caused landslides on Rinjani, an active volcano. Video shot by the Indonesian Red Cross showed huge clouds of dust billowing from the mountain's slopes.



A damaged Xiamen Air, a Boeing passenger plane from China, is towed away from the scene more than 24-hours after it skidded off the runway while landing under a heavy downpour Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in suburban Pasay city southeast of Manila, Philippines. AP

Plane skids off rainy Manila runway, rips off engine, wheel

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Passengers of a plane from China that veered off a runway at Manila's airport and lost an engine and a wheel after landing hard in a rainstorm recalled Friday their brush with the terrifying mishap, with some of the 165 people on board expecting the worst.

The Boeing 737-800, carrying 157 passengers and eight crew from China's coastal city of Xiamen, managed to touch down close to midnight amid a downpour after aborting an initial attempt to land due to poor visibility, according to Philippine officials, who expressed relief that a disaster was avoided.

The airliner lost contact with the tower as it rolled off the runway into a rain-soaked field, where one of the plane's engines and wheels got ripped off before everyone onboard scrambled out

through an emergency slide, the officials said.

A Filipino-American from California, Ruben Lopez Espinas, thought the plane would crash. "I surrendered myself. I said, 'Lord, I am yours if it's really my time,'" he said.

Chinese passenger Wang Xun Qun embraced her teen daughter during the tense moments before the aircraft landed. When asked to describe their experience, the two repeatedly said, "Scary, scary."

Chen Lei, who was on the plane with friends, said the plane touched down but pulled up steeply in a 90-degree angle a few seconds after it aborted the first landing. "My palm started to sweat," he said.

When it did land, the plane glided for about five seconds then the wing and the engine under it hit the ground, with Chen witnessing the unfolding danger from a window. "The

luggage fell down and many equipment inside the plane started to fall. I also smelled heavy smoke," he said.

Then the plane suddenly came to an abrupt stop.

Shaken by the experience and drenched by the downpour, the passengers and crew of Xiamen Air Flight 8667 were taken to an airport terminal, where they were given blankets and food before going to a hotel, airport general manager Ed Monreal and other officials said.

"With God's blessing, all passengers and the crew were able to evacuate safely and no injuries except for about four who had some superficial scratches," Monreal said.

The plane failed to land at first apparently due to poor visibility that may have hindered the pilots' view of the runway, Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Phil-

ippines Jim Sydiongco told reporters. The plane circled before finally landing near midnight but lost contact with the tower, Sydiongco said.

Investigators retrieved the plane's flight recorder and will get the cockpit voice recorder once the aircraft has been lifted to determine the cause of the accident, Sydiongco said.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila's main international gateway, will be closed until Saturday morning while emergency crews use a crane to try to lift the aircraft, its belly resting on the muddy ground, away from the main runway, officials said. A smaller runway for domestic flights remained open.

TV footage showed the plane slightly tilting to the left, its left badly damaged wing touching the ground and its landing wheels not readily visible as emergency personnel

examined the aircraft. One of the detached engines and landing wheels lay a few meters (yards) away.

A Xiamen Air representative, Lin Hua Gun, said the airline will send another plane to Manila to resume the flight. The Civil Aviation of China said it was sending a team to assist in the investigation.

Nearly 80 international and domestic flights have been canceled or diverted due to the closure of the airport, which lies in a densely populated residential and commercial section of metropolitan Manila.

Torrential monsoon rains enhanced by a tropical storm flooded many low-lying areas of Manila and northern provinces last weekend, displacing thousands of residents and forcing officials to shut schools and government offices. The weather has improved with sporadic downpours.

Afghan officials: Taliban take at least 100 people hostage

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban ambushed a convoy of busses Monday on a road in northern Afghanistan and took more than 100 people hostage, including women and children, in the latest brazen assault by insurgents, provincial officials said.

The ambush came despite Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's announcement of a conditional cease-fire with the Taliban during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha this week.

The fate of the abducted in Kunduz province—in an area that has recently fallen under Taliban control—was not im-

mediately known and there was no statement from the insurgents.

The Taliban have resurged in recent years, seizing entire districts across Afghanistan and regularly carrying out large-scale bombings and attacks that have killed scores of people.

According to Mohammad Yusuf Ayubi, the head of the provincial council in Kunduz, the insurgents stopped three busses on the road near Khan Abad district and forced the passengers to come with them.

Ayubi said he believes the Taliban were looking for government employees or members

of the security forces who usually go home for the holidays.

Abdul Rahman Aqtash, police chief in neighboring Takhar province, said the passengers were from Badakhshan and Takhar provinces and were traveling to the capital, Kabul.

"So far, there is no news on the fate of the passengers, but tribal elders and local officials are trying to negotiate with the Taliban," Ayubi added.

In his call on Sunday for the truce, Ghani said "the cease-fire should be observed from both sides, and its continuation and duration also depend on the Taliban's stand."

Ghani made the announcement during celebrations of the 99th anniversary of Afghanistan's independence, just a day after the leader of the Afghan Taliban said that there will be no peace in the country as long as the "foreign occupation" continues.

The militant leader, Maulvi Haibatullah Akhunzadah, reiterated the group's position that the country's 17-year war can only be brought to an end through direct talks with the United States.

In a message released on the occasion of Eid al-Adha—and without pointing to any cease-

fire—the Taliban leader said on Saturday that the insurgents remain committed to "Islamic goals," the sovereignty of Afghanistan and ending the war.

For his part, Ghani said he hoped extensions could also be agreed upon to make the cease-fire last until Nov. 20, which will mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

The government had previously announced a cease-fire with the Taliban during the Eid al-Fitr holiday in June. The Taliban accepted that three-day cease-fire, but later rejected a call by the president to extend it.

World

Venezuelans nervously await dramatic economic reforms

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan shopkeepers and consumers nervously awaited the launch of dramatic reforms announced by President Nicolas Maduro to rescue a downward-spiraling economy, including a new currency and a more-than-3,000 percent hike in the minimum wage.

The changes start to kick in Monday with the introduction of a currency that lops five zeros off the country's fast-depreciating bills. Maduro says he'll also raise gasoline prices to international levels—a combination of measures critics say will only make things worse.

Opposition leaders seized on tension among residents, calling for a nationwide strike and protest Tuesday. They hope to draw masses into the streets against Maduro's socialist ruling party—something they've failed to do in over a year.

Banks will close Monday as they prepare to release the "sovereign bolivar," the new currency printed with five fewer zeroes in a bid to tame soaring inflation. Maduro's government says that in late-September, the world's cheapest gas will rise to international levels to curtail rampant smuggling across borders.

Maduro said Friday that the minimum wage will also soon jump dramatically.

Economists say the package of measures is likely to accelerate hyperinflation rather than



A man enters his password as he pays with a debit card for a tray of eggs, at a market in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018. AP

address its core economic troubles, like oil production plunging to levels last seen in 1947.

"The bolivar's redenomination will be like going under the knife of one of Caracas' famed plastic surgeons," Johns Hopkins University economist Steve Hanke wrote on www.forbes.com. "Appearances change, but, in reality, nothing

changes. That's what's in store for the bolivar: a face-lift."

Lines on Saturday were longer than normal at a Caracas street market, where people stocked up due to uncertainty about what will come this week. Many were frustrated by bank card readers that were slow to register or that failed altogether, forcing some to

leave their goods walking away empty-handed.

"You have to be patient," a shop worker selling grains told a growing line of customers. Many other stores remained closed, uncertain what prices to set for their goods.

Venezuela was once among Latin America's most prosperous nations, holding the world's

largest proven oil reserves, but a recent fall in oil prices accompanied by corruption and mismanagement under two decades of socialist rule have left the economy in a historic economic and political crisis.

Inflation this year could top 1 million percent, according to economists at the International Monetary Fund.

Inflation has made it difficult to find paper money. The largest bill under the outgoing cash system was the 100,000-bolivar note, equal to less than 3 cents on the commonly used black market exchange rate. A cup of coffee cost more than 2 million bolivars.

The new paper bills will have two coins and paper denominations ranging from 2 up to 500. The lowest represents the buying power of 200,000 current bolivars while the highest stands in for 50 million.

The old and new currencies will remain in circulation together during a transitional period.

The government made a similar move in 2008, when then-President Hugo Chavez issued new currency that eliminated three zeros to combat soaring inflation.

Maduro also announced Friday a more-than-3,000 percent leap in the minimum wage, bringing it up to around \$30 at the widely used black market rate. It's unclear when the change will start.

Adding to confusion, Maduro said he wants to peg wages, prices and pensions to the petro — a cryptocurrency announced in February but which has yet to start circulating. He said one petro would equal \$60, with the goal of moving toward a single floating exchange rate in the future tied to the digital currency.

Italy bridge designer warned in 1979 of risk of corrosion

ROME (AP)—The Italian engineer who designed the Genoa bridge that collapsed and killed dozens warned four decades ago that it would require constant maintenance to remove rust given the effects of corrosion from sea air and pollution on the concrete.

RAI state television broadcast excerpts Sunday of the report that the late engineer Riccardo Morandi penned in 1979, 12 years after the bridge bearing his name was inaugurated in Genoa. The Associated Press downloaded the English-language report from an engineering news portal.

At the time of writing, Morandi said there was already a "well-known loss of superficial chemical resistance of the concrete" because of sea air and pollution from a nearby steel plant. He said he chose to write about it because the degradation represented a particular "perplexity" given the "aggressivity" of the corrosion that wasn't seen in similar structures in different environments.

Morandi reaffirmed the soundness of the reinforced concrete bridge design he

used but warned: "Sooner or later, maybe in a few years, it will be necessary to resort to a treatment consisting of the removal of all traces of rust on the exposure of the reinforcements, to fill in the patches."

He recommended using an epoxy resin to cover the reinforcements with materials "of a very high chemical resistance."

A huge section of the bridge collapsed Aug. 14 during a fierce storm, killing 43 people and forcing the evacuation of nearby residents in the densely built-up area.

The cause is under investigation, and a team of engineers appointed by the ministry of infrastructure and transportation carried out a preliminary inspection Sunday after rescue crews concluded their search for the missing.

The head of the government team, Roberto Ferrazza, said the preliminary survey suggested a series of possible causes and not just a simple collapse of the bridge support since the span appears to have initially experienced a distortion.

"We have to look at the positioning of the rubble, considering that there was a break that provoked an imbalanced movement of the structure," the ANSA news agency quoted Ferrazza as saying.

The Espresso newsmagazine reported Sunday that Ferrazza was one of the engineers who knew about the advanced corrosion underway on the key bridge support that gave way, having attended a Feb. 1 meeting of experts from the transport ministry and the company that manages bridge repairs.

Minutes of the meeting, which bear Ferrazza's signature, recommended that the supports be reinforced given the "trend of degradation" being registered. Bidding opened in April for the 20 million-euro (\$23 million) public works contract to do the work, according to Italian media.

The Morandi Bridge was a key artery that linked highways to Milan and France, a vital lifeline for both commercial traffic as well as vacationers bound for the mountains and Mediterranean beaches.

WORLD BRIEFS

Palestinians sort through 8 years of mail held by Israel

JERICHO, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian postal workers in the West Bank are sifting through eight years' worth of undelivered mail held by Israel. In recent days the Palestinian postal staff in Jericho has been sorting through tons of undelivered mail in a room packed with letters, boxes and even a wheelchair. The Palestinians say Israel has withheld delivery of post shipments to the Palestinian territories through its national postal service since 2010. According to Palestinian postage official Ramadan Ghazawi, Israel did not honor a 2008 agreement with the Palestinians to send and receive mail directly through Jordan. Mail was indeed delivered through Jordan but was denied entry by Israel, causing a years-long backlog. "It was blocked because each time they (Israel) used to give us a reason and an excuse. Once they said the terminal, the building that the post was supposed to arrive to is not ready and once (they said) to wait, they're expecting a larger checking machine (security scanner)," he said.

Iraq's top court ratifies manual recount of May ballots

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's top court has ratified the results of the country's May parliamentary elections following a manual ballot recount ordered by the outgoing chamber following charges of irregularities. The Federal Court's decision on Sunday paves the way

for the president to summon lawmakers to an inaugural session of the new, 329-seat house. In theory, parliament should then proceed to elect a speaker, a president and a prime minister, who will in turn form a new government. However, political wrangling over who gets to be prime minister will likely delay the process for weeks, maybe months. A coalition led by maverick Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr won the largest number of seats, 54, followed by an alliance of government-sanctioned militias known as Hashed, with 47.

UK woman rescued after falling from cruise ship in Croatia

PULA, Croatia (AP)—A British woman was rescued Sunday after falling from a cruise ship and spending 10 hours in the Adriatic Sea at night, Croatia's coast guard said. The unidentified woman was taken to a hospital in the town of Pula and is out of danger. She fell from the Norwegian Star cruise ship, about 95 kilometers (60 miles) off Croatia's coast shortly before midnight Saturday. A Croatian rescue ship was scrambled and found her swimming Sunday morning not far from where she was believed to have fallen. "I fell off the back of the Norwegian Star and I was in the water for 10 hours, so these wonderful guys rescued me," she told Croatia's state HRT television as the rescue ship arrived at a dock, without explaining how she fell overboard. She identified herself as Kay from England, age 46.

Focus

By **IVAN MORENO** and
JEFF KAROUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For decades, Michael Drweiga has opened his wallet whenever the donation basket comes around at church, but the latest revelations of priests sexually abusing children brought him to the conclusion that he can no longer justify giving.

Brice Sokolowski helps small Catholic nonprofits and churches raise money, but he too supports the recent calls to withhold donations.

And Georgene Sorensen has felt enough anger and “just total sadness” over the past few weeks that she’s reconsidering her weekly offering at her parish.

Across the U.S., Catholics once faithful with their financial support to their churches are searching for

ways to respond to the constant sex-abuse scandals that have tarnished the institution in which they believe, with back-to-back scandals in the past two months.

The most recent came Tuesday when a grand jury report revealed that hundreds of Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania molested more than 1,000 children in six dioceses since the 1940s—crimes that church leaders are accused of covering up. The report came two months after Pope Francis ordered disgraced ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick removed from public ministry amid allegations the 88-year-old retired archbishop sexually abused a teenage altar boy and engaged in sexual misconduct with adult seminarians decades ago. Last month,

Francis accepted McCarrick’s resignation as cardinal and ordered him to a “life of prayer and penance.”

The most recent “whopper of a report” from Pennsylvania, Drweiga said, was enough to make him wonder where his money was going and whether it was being used to cover up abuses.

“In an organization that spans the whole world like the Catholic Church, you don’t know where your money is going. And when you read about these priest-abuse scandals it just raises that question to the highest power. What is this money going for?” said Drweiga, 63, who lives in Wilmette, Illinois.

Sokolowski, an Austin, Texas, resident who founded

Catholicfundraiser.net to provide advice to Catholic nonprofits and churches, said he’s heard from many who are “really sick and tired” of hearing about priests abusing children.

“So the big thing that people are saying is, ‘We just need to stop funding their crap,’” said Sokolowski, 36. He said he encourages people to stop giving money to their diocese, which oversees the network of churches in an area, but to keep supporting their local parish and tell their priest and bishop what they’re doing.

Calls to financially boycott the Catholic Church are not new. Five years ago, after sex-abuse scandals rocked the archdiocese in St. Paul, Minnesota, parishioners talked about withholding their donations in protest.

But Catholics face a delicate balance because some of the money dioceses raise are shared with parishes, cautioned Dr. Edward Peters, the Edmund Cardinal Szoka Chair at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

“I’m just saying, be careful about punishing the Spouse of Christ and her dependent children because some priests and even bishops, men presumably wedded to her as Jesus was wedded to her, abandoned her so shamelessly,” Peters wrote in a blog post Thurs-

day, referring to the Catholic Church.

Sorensen, who lives near Tucson, Arizona, said after the McCarrick story broke, her prayer group sent a letter to her bishop voicing their concerns.

“Then came the Pennsylvania scandal and we thought, ‘Oh my God, this isn’t over. We thought it was over,’” the 72-year-old Sorensen said. “We thought we were building the new church again.”

Sorensen said she doesn’t plan to withhold money that she has pledged, including her diocese’s Annual Catholic Appeal, but she has spoken with others about the possibility of not giving a regular weekly contribution or only offering money to specific projects.

As for future major giving, she said, “we are definitely waiting to see where all the chips are going to fall.”

“It comes down to one thing: It’s the message, not the messenger,” she said. “I’m a faithful Catholic. ... I will never leave the church. I will fight to save it.”

For Eddie Shih, however, the scandal has shaken his faith—one to which he converted about a decade ago and has intensely studied through three years of night school to earn a master’s degree in theology.

“I am struggling with it—it’s not easy for me,” said

Shih, a Taiwanese immigrant who lives in New York City and attends several Catholic churches. “I don’t think I’ll leave the church but I can imagine a lot of people ... will just drop out of the church.”

Tim Lennon, the president of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said his organization has fielded calls from Catholics who have pledged to stop giving to their church.

“It’s an action as opposed to just sitting here doing nothing,” he said, but added that it’s a symbolic gesture.

“That in itself will not protect children. That in itself will not support survivors. That in itself will not compel ... an attorney general to take action,” he said. “It’s just a message to the church that it’s not just survivors knocking at their door as we have been for the last 30 years.”

Ilene Kennedy, a San Antonio resident who attended Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City on Sunday, said she doesn’t know “what the fix would be” aside from “holding the higher-ups accountable.” Still, she doesn’t think withholding her money from the collection basket is the answer.

“I don’t think that we should punish all churches just for that,” she said. “I don’t think that’s right.”



AP
Bishop David Zubik, current Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, takes questions from reporters after vocation Mass at Saints John and Paul Parish, Saturday, Aug. 18, 2018, in Franklin Park, Pa. Zubik gave brief remarks about the recent release of the long-anticipated grand jury report documenting seven decades of child sexual abuse by hundreds of Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania.

Catholics consider withholding donations amid scandals



AP
In this Sunday, April 24, 2011 file photo, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, sprinkles Holy Water during Easter Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Washington. On Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, a Pennsylvania grand jury accused Cardinal Wuerl of helping to protect abusive priests when he was Pittsburgh’s bishop.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW



KNUTS & BOLTS

2018 Mercedes-AMG E63 S MSRP: \$104,400

- **As tested:** \$131,140—includes, among other features, Burmester 3D sound (\$4,550), exterior carbon fiber package (\$2,950), AMG Premium tech package (\$3,600)
- **What's all the excitement about?** 600-plus hp with launch control, amazing sound and lighting systems
- **Powertrain:** 4.0-liter V-8 Biturbo good for 603 hp, 627 pound-feet of torque; 9-speed automatic transmission with shift paddles
- **How's the performance?** 0-60 mph in 3.3 seconds; top speed factory-capped at 186 mph
- **What about fuel economy?** EPA-rated at 15 mpg city, 22 highway, 18 combined, for those who really behave themselves

The 2018 Mercedes-AMG E63 S.
TNS

At 603 hp, Mercedes AMG E63 S is the most powerful E-Class car ever

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A lift to the airport in the 2018 Mercedes-AMG E63 S left passengers highly impressed, not surprisingly. They sat in beautifully sculpted Nappa leather seats and were surrounded by stretches of carbon fiber weave and elegant wood trim.

They were amazed by the high-end Burmester sound system and loved the sweet fragrance filtering into the cabin.

But, folks, understand that it's also one of the fastest and most powerful luxury sport sedans in the world. It has the fire of a hot rod, with drift mode and launch control. And then ... ah, OK, go catch your plane.

The E63 S has a bold new front end with an oversize three-point-star logo and huge air intakes to feed the beast

inside. Crisp creases mark the hood and sides, and it has broader fenders to accommodate the wider tires with black forged wheels. At the rear, quad square exhaust tips spew groans and crackles like a blazing barn.

It's the most powerful E-Class ever — the E63 S even joins the elite 600-plus horsepower club. The AMG-handcrafted 4.0-liter V-8 has a pair of turbochargers that push output to 603 hp and 627 pound-feet of torque.

So it is not for the timid; it wants to run, and you'll feel it the moment you touch the accelerator. It will jackrabbit to 60 mph in a mere 3.3 seconds, with launch control engaged. That is crazy fast, neck-jarring, eye-opening fast, and should be done under controlled conditions, of course. Top speed is factory-capped at 186 mph.

Regulating the power is a 9-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission, and it's distributed by a new all-wheel-drive (called 4Matic+). It is a variable torque system which sends most of the torque to the rear during heavy acceleration and cornering, but redirects some to the front when needed.

In Drift mode, 100 percent of the torque is shifted to the rear wheels, though it's a chore that starts by switching on Race mode and switching off stability control. Might wait for rally day.

"Launch Control" prevents wheel spin during strong acceleration. Once in Race mode, with feet on the gas and brake, you just pop the brake when the instrument panel flashes red. (Guess that means things are going to get red hot.)

For the majority who will commute rather than race, know that the E63's sport-

tuned suspension means a firmer ride—even in Comfort mode. However, "dynamic" engine mounts do help minimize vibrations from the drivetrain. Steering is responsive and nicely weighted around town and on the highway.

Another plus: This Hulk Hogan of an engine is actually more economical this year, with credit going to a new cylinder-deactivation system. The V-8 becomes a mild-mannered V-4 when the extra oomph isn't needed, which means better mileage and a quieter ride.

Still, nobody will brag about mileage figures: EPA numbers of 15 mpg city, 22 highway, are modest enough but they're even optimistic for anyone who likes to drive with, uh, vigor.

Inside, dual displays of performance data and infotainment unite to form a broad panel of instruments. The cab-

in's racy look is accented with a flat-bottom performance wheel. Interior trims come in carbon fiber, wood and metal.

Seats, adorned with the AMG logo, offer numerous adjustments and massage features but they require entering Mercedes' sometimes-overwhelming COMAND system.

While you're there, you can also find the multitude of ambient LED lighting choices—64 colors from which to choose.

The 1,450-watts of Burmester sound emanates from 23 speakers; the subwoofer is in the trunk. Five sound profiles are offered, from live concert to easy listening, and sound can actually be fine-tuned toward a single passenger. It works and it's amazing.

On a more practical note, trunk space is on the tight side, compared to its foes from Cadillac, Audi and BMW, with only 13 cubic feet. That's just

enough for a set of golf clubs or a couple of smaller suitcases. But the rear seats can be folded down from inside the trunk to open more space.

E63 S has plenty of advanced-tech safety features but many of them are optional, somewhat disappointing for a \$100,000-plus vehicle. An AMG Premium package (\$3,600) includes adaptive cruise control, lane-departure warnings and lane-keep assist.

There's plenty of power, punch and tech in the E63 S, and it'll take more time than a jaunt to the airport for passengers to get the whole story—or for you to finish boasting about it.

Barry Spyker was the automotive columnist for *The Miami Herald* and editor of its *Wheels & Waves* section. Readers may send him email at spy2351@yahoo.com.

Motormouth: Could the windshield on a Subaru Outback be scrambling GPS signals?

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q I recently bought a Garmin DriveSmart GPS. I have a 2013 Subaru Outback. When the Garmin is mounted on the dashboard, it keeps losing satellite reception. When it is lying on the passenger seat, it works perfectly. Garmin support has no answer for me, and neither does the dealer. I think it has something to do with the windshield. A year ago I had the windshield replaced with an aftermarket one rather than an OEM. What do you know about this situation and is there a solution so that I can mount it on the dashboard? Thanks for your help.

— C.H., Chicago

A We turned to Nik Frye at Auto Glass Fitters for insight into aftermarket windshields. Frye said Subaru Outbacks have a heating grid attached to the underside of the bottom of the windshield. When activated, this grid heats the wiper park area of the windshield in order to melt ice and snow off the wipers when they are at rest. His sources agree that it is most likely the heating grid causing the interference. Try mounting the GPS directly to the glass, but higher up. And, if your windshield heater has an on-off switch, be sure to switch it off.

Q I put synthetic oil in my 2008 Toyota to stretch the oil changes. But the dealer says that the 2008 model was not certified (I'm not sure that's the term) for synthetic oil and oil should be changed every 5,000 miles. True or false?

— B.H., Center Valley, Pa.

A We have never heard of a car requiring certification for any oil: synthetic, conventional or a semisynthetic (combination of both). Synthetic oil is superior to conventional oil and oxidizes less quickly, reducing sludge. That is why extended oil changes are permitted. However, we have heard of owners being denied warranty coverage if they cannot prove that oil changes were done in compliance with the published intervals. Your car is well out of warranty.

Q I have a 2017 Ford Escape. My two side mirrors look cloudy. If you rub the mirror with a dry rag or your fingers the cloudiness goes away. It returns by the next day, repeatedly. The local Ford dealer did not have any ideas or suggestions. Mirror replacements are \$150 plus labor. Any ideas?

Could a ghost house cause a car to stall?

— R.C., Princeton, Ill.

A: Our first guess is that you park the car in an environment that leaves something on the mirrors. Moisture, for instance? If you think that new mirrors are the answer, you can buy replace-

ment glass for a lot less than a complete mirror assembly for which the dealer may be quoting the price.

Q The emissions test center could not communicate with the engine control module (ECM) on my 1998 Toyota Camry XLE. I was told that if trouble codes can't be read I will never get a waiver. I contacted four emissions shops and one dealer and they can't diagnose it. The ECM and harness are very expensive. My car runs great and has served me very well. Why junk a good working car and pollute the grounds of a junkyard?

— S.W., Arlington Heights, Ill.

A We really don't have any easy idea as to how you can pass the emissions inspection. But we do have an idea for an alternative. Sell the car. But be sure the buyer lives outside the area.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, *Consumer Guide* and *Consumers Digest*.

Send questions along with name and town to *Motormouth*, *Rides*, *Chicago Tribune*, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As a 21-year-old Aretha Franklin worked on her singing voice in New York during the summer of 1963, her father, Rev. C. L. Franklin, raced to finish the final touches on the planned March on Washington.

Nearly five decades later, Franklin found herself in Washington and performing “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” at the inauguration of the nation’s first black president.

It wasn’t the first time she sang to a Leader of the Free World.

Throughout her career, the “Queen of Soul” often returned to the nation’s capital for performances that at times put her in line with key moments of U.S. history. She sang for diplomats, welcomed emperors and brought one president—Barack Obama—to tears. Franklin accepted many honors and performed for charities and civil rights groups in Washington. She even got in one heated argument at the White House with another unnamed diva that resulted in the two performers reportedly exchanging obscene gestures toward each other.

For the Memphis, Tennessee-born, Detroit-raised Franklin, it’s not surprising she found herself in Washington late in her career. Franklin surrounded herself with the politics of the day and often referenced her experiences

Aretha Franklin’s funeral set for Aug. 31 in Detroit

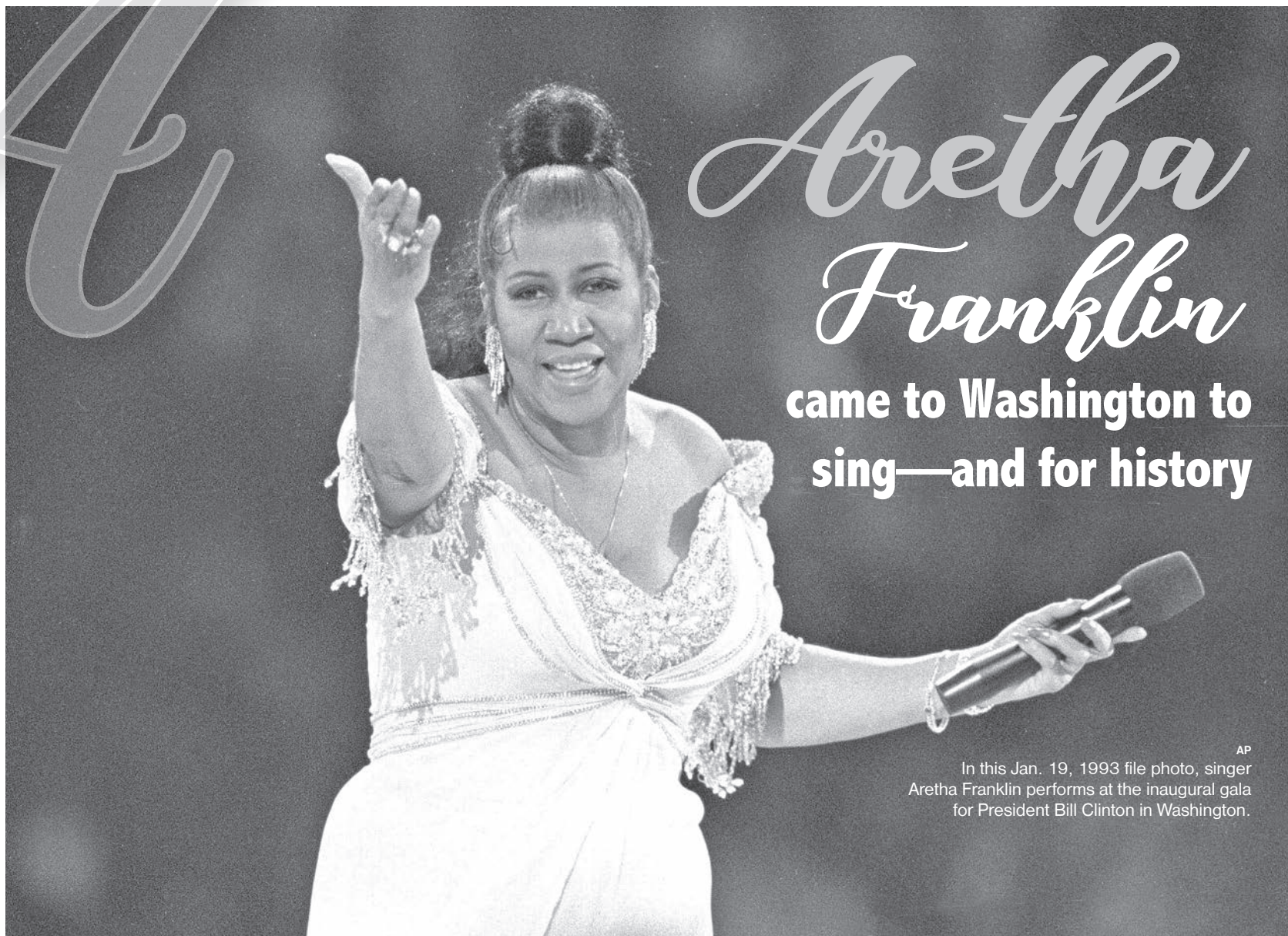
NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin’s funeral will be held Aug. 31 in her hometown of Detroit.

The late singer’s publicist, Gwendolyn Quinn, said Friday that the funeral, to be held at Greater Grace Temple, is limited to the Queen of Soul’s family and friends.

Public viewings will take place Aug. 28-29 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Franklin will be entombed at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, along with her father Rev. C.L. Franklin; sisters Carolyn Franklin and Erma Franklin; brother Cecil Franklin; and nephew Thomas Garrett.

Franklin died Thursday at her home in Detroit from pancreatic cancer. She was 76.



AP
In this Jan. 19, 1993 file photo, singer Aretha Franklin performs at the inaugural gala for President Bill Clinton in Washington.

alongside episodes of U.S. history in speeches, interviews and her 1999 autobiography, “Aretha: From These Roots.”

She noted in her book, for example, that she was born three months after Pearl Harbor and her father backed Democrat Adlai Stevenson for president in 1956. “Daddy was a staunch, lifelong Democrat, as I am,” she wrote.

Franklin also mentioned that family passed down tales about the historic treatment

of African-Americans, from slavery to sharecropping—something she’d never forget. “My grandmother, whom we all called Big Mama, had worked the fields herself and told us stories of those difficult days,” Franklin wrote in her autobiography. “No matter how much cotton you picked, you always owed the man.”

After Franklin found success, she began to make money. “I was intent on enjoying it,” she said. “I tithed and gave

to many charities, including Jesse Jackson’s Operation Breadbasket, the NAACP, Operation PUSH, UNICEF, and Easter Seals.”

Franklin hit the scene as soul and rhythm and blues had supplanted jazz as the preferred music of young African Americans. Performers like Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughn, Lena Horne, and Ella Fitzgerald, though respected and admired, were falling out of favor among the younger

generation. As a leader in the new soul movement, Franklin gain credibility and Democratic groups and civil rights organizations sought her out for performances that eventually landed her in Washington or near political centers of power.

In 1968, Democrats asked her to sing the national anthem at the Democratic convention in Chicago. As she prepared to sing, police and anti-Vietnam war protesters clashed in the street. Franklin performed al-

though she famously forgot a few lines.

Then the disco era came, and sales of her albums fell. Like soul singers Ray Charles and Nina Simone, she performed overseas in places like Paris and London.

Franklin returned to the spotlight in 1977 during nationally broadcast “Jimmy Carter’s Inaugural Gala” in Washington. In her first performance for a president, she sang “God Bless America.”

Recording: Omarosa offered \$15,000 a month to be ‘positive’

WASHINGTON (AP)—Omarosa Manigault Newman on Thursday released another secret audio recording that she says proves President Donald Trump wanted to silence her after firing her from the White House.

In the recording played on MSNBC, Trump’s daughter-in-law Lara Trump offers Manigault Newman a job earning \$15,000 a month. The job wouldn’t require her to report to any particular office or have a specific set of duties, other than to speak positively on Trump’s behalf as part of his re-election campaign.

Lara Trump, married to Eric Trump, can be heard on the tape noting a New York Times report that suggested Manigault Newman had inside information that could be damaging to Trump.

“It sounds a little like, obviously, that there are some things you’ve got in the back pocket to pull out,” Lara Trump said. “Clearly, if you come on board the campaign, like, we can’t have, we got to ...”

Manigault Newman interjects: “Oh, God, no.”

“Everything, everybody, positive, right?” Lara Trump asks.

The secret recording is one of several Manigault Newman released this week to back up her claims in her new book, “Unhinged.”

In a written response Thursday, Lara Trump said her entire family was concerned for Manigault Newman after she was fired “because we had no idea about the basis for her dismissal,” but “we still wanted her on our team because we cared so much about her per-

sonally.”

Lara Trump says that’s why she reached out and offered Manigault Newman a job on the re-election campaign “before we knew anything about the gross violations of ethics and integrity during her White House tenure.”

Lara Trump says that the latest tape is a “fraud” and that the snippets of discussion aired by MSNBC “took place in numerous phone calls over the course of several weeks.”

“Woman to woman, I shared a connection with Omarosa as a friend and a campaign sister, and I am absolutely shocked and saddened by her betrayal and violation on a deeply personal level,” the president’s daughter-in-law said.

The president on Thursday tweeted: “Thank you for the

kind words, Omarosa” in a post that included the link to a video, released by the Republican National Committee, that is a compilation of broadcast interviews in which Manigault Newman makes positive comments about Trump. The RNC released the video on Twitter under the headline, “Guess she forgot about these tapes.” MSNBC also played the GOP video for Manigault Newman during its interview with her.

A former contestant on Trump’s reality TV show “The Apprentice,” Manigault Newman was one of Trump’s most prominent African-American supporters during his campaign. He hired her to be a White House assistant, earning \$179,700 a year as director of communications for the White House office of

public liaison.

But she was deeply disliked by many of her colleagues and eventually was ousted by Trump’s chief of staff, John Kelly, for “significant integrity issues.”

According to other recordings released this week, Trump appeared to be in the dark on her December 2017 firing. And Kelly suggested, “If we make this a friendly departure ... you can go on without any type of difficulty in the future relative to your reputation.”

Manigault Newman alleges there is a tape of Trump using a racial slur while working on “The Apprentice.” Trump denies this and has lashed out at his former aide on Twitter, calling her “wacky and deranged,” “not smart” and a “dog.”

'Crazy Rich Asians' shines bright at the box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Glitz won over guns as the gilded romance "Crazy Rich Asians" debuted at No. 1 in North American theaters this weekend, surpassing industry expectations and beating out action-packed fare like "Mile 22."

Warner Bros. estimates that the film earned \$25.2 million over the weekend and \$34 million since its opening Wednesday. It's a surefire win for the film, which cost \$30 million to produce and went into the weekend with months of buzz and a 93 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Breakout star Henry Golding told The Associated Press on Sunday that the film's performance is a "testament to the people who are turning up."

"It's not just the Asians who are coming. It's people of all colors from all walks of life who are enjoying this cinematic experience," Golding said. "It's a real shift in Hollywood."

Adapted from Kevin Kwan's best-seller, "Crazy Rich Asians" stars Constance Wu as an American woman who gets a culture shock meeting her boyfriend's obscenely wealthy family in Singapore. The studio strategically bumped up the film's opening to a Wednesday earlier in the summer.

"We knew we'd get adivs who read the book and a large Asian following," said Warner Bros. domestic distribution president Jeff Goldstein. "We figured OK, we get good reviews, open on Wednesday, word of mouth will spread and really propel the movie into the weekend, and that's exactly what happened."



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Michelle Yeoh, from left, Henry Golding and Constance Wu in a scene from the film "Crazy Rich Asians."

As recently as July 26, box office experts were predicting that the film would open to at least \$18 million over its first five days, but no one expected a launch of over \$30 million.

"I think the audience isn't an obvious audience," Goldstein said. "When you get a culturally important event like this movie, I think it just takes off like wildfire."

The stakes were high for the first studio-produced movie led by Asian-Americans in 25 years. The filmmakers even turned down a big offer from Netflix to give the historically significant film

a theatrical platform. Cast members and fans started using the hashtag #GoldOpen to try to encourage more opening weekend support.

Director Jon M. Chu tweeted his appreciation Sunday and asked audiences to keep spreading the word.

"We still have a long run to go but our message to the world has been heard. We have arrived," Chu wrote. "Now let's go tell more of our stories! We have a lot more to say. And I don't want to wait another 25 years to see them. This is only the beginning."

Despite the success of

"Crazy Rich Asians," other films still found audiences this weekend, including Warner Bros. shark movie "The Meg," which fell only 53 percent in its second weekend, adding \$21.2 million. The Jason Statham-led film has now grossed over \$300 million worldwide.

Mark Wahlberg's action-packed "Mile 22," his fourth collaboration with director Peter Berg, debuted in third place with an estimated \$13.6 million. The STX film had a \$35 million production budget.

Launching with \$10.5 million, "Alpha," an Ice Age-set adventure tale, tied for fourth

place in its opening weekend with "Mission: Impossible—Fallout."

In limited release, Sony Pictures Classics' "The Wife" opened with \$111,137, and Roadside Attractions' "Juliet, Naked" debuted with \$60,922. Both films opened in four theaters.

One film that did not find much of an audience was Kevin Spacey's "Billionaire Boys Club," which Vertical Entertainment released in eight theaters this weekend after making it available for purchase on Video on Demand last month. Official

1. "Crazy Rich Asians," \$25.2 million (\$730,000 international).
2. "The Meg," \$21.2 million (\$67 million international).
3. "Mile 22," \$13.6 million (\$538,000 international).
4. "Alpha," \$10.5 million.
- 4.(tie) "Mission: Impossible—Fallout," \$10.5 million (\$20.5 million international).
5. "Christopher Robin," \$8.9 million (\$7.9 million international).
6. "BlackKkKlansman," \$7 million (\$1.2 million international).
7. "Slender Man," \$5 million.
8. "Hotel Transylvania 3," \$3.7 million (\$28.3 million international).
9. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$3.4 million (\$15.3 million international).

earnings were not reported to comScore, but industry trade publication The Hollywood Reporter said Sunday that the film earned a dismal \$425.

Hollywood's winning streak continues with the summer season up 12.4 percent from last year and the year overall up 8.9 percent.

"The box office is on a roll," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian, noting the diverse genre offerings in cinemas this summer. "The line-up basically looks like a streaming service. That's what people have become accustomed to and the movie theater is delivering it in a big way this summer."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Beyond 'The Walking Dead,' Lauren Cohan is ready for change

NEW YORK (AP)—Even battling zombies day in and day out can get repetitive.

After eight seasons of fighting for her life on AMC's "The Walking Dead," Lauren Cohan knew she needed a change when she felt a little too comfortable with the job. That's why she's saying goodbye to the role, though producers are leaving the door open should she change her mind.

"Eight years is a really long time to be in those emotional depths and it's really fun for me because I never thought about drama as much when I started this career and I always kind of assumed I'd do like light fare," she told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

She has always fought against the idea of being too comfortable, in work and life overall. There was a time she scratched that itch by moving into new houses.

"This is a much better way of doing it," Cohan laughed.

Cohan, 36, will appear in the first half of season nine, pre-



Cohan

miering in October. She considers the offer to return "a gift."

"There's a chance for me to still explore the Maggie character and it's going to be fun to see if that can be done," she said.

She gave the show lots of props ("Walking Dead" is responsible for more than I can say") but is looking forward to new film and TV projects.

The first is "Mile 22," starring Mark Wahlberg and directed by Peter Berg with the hope of becoming a film franchise. It follows a secret CIA task force that must retrieve

and transport an intelligence asset through 22 miles of hostile territory. It's fast-paced and intense, but also funny.

Cohan said the cast was encouraged to improvise in some scenes.

"It's fun to play the witty dialogue and I always love in Pete's movies how there are a lot of normal people with interesting conversations," she said. "It always feels like you're opening a window into real life."

Next, Cohan will act opposite Scott Foley in ABC's "Whiskey Cavalier," debuting in 2019.

"The hardest part is not laughing," she said. In the dramedy, Cohan plays another CIA operative but one who gets matched with Foley's superstar FBI agent to solve cases.

"They have this wonderful 'Moonlighting' vibe," she said. "I'm an emotional character with a steely exterior and the guys are much more in touch with their feelings. It's funny! It's great. It's a really fun departure for me."

Australian filmmaker goes on trial in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—One of Australia's most famous movie directors testified Thursday in Cambodia at the trial of a filmmaking countryman facing a possible prison term of five to 10 years for flying a drone to capture images of an opposition political rally.

Peter Weir, director of "The Year of Living Dangerously," "Dead Poets Society" and "The Truman Show," testified as a character witness at the trial of James Ricketson, who was arrested in June 2017 and has been kept in detention since then.

Ricketson, 69, was taken in an orange prison uniform to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court for the first official trial session on the charge of endangering national security, which in legal terms is tantamount to espionage.

Before testimony began, Ricketson's lawyer applied for his release on bail, as he had unsuccessfully done several

times previously, but was again turned down by the judge.

Weir testified that he has known Ricketson since 1973, when they met at film school in Australia.

Weir, 73, told the court that Ricketson has never been involved with any political parties or government work but worked mostly as a freelancer and spent his life making documentary films, especially focused on Australian subjects, for which he had won several prizes.

"In 1973, I remember that that was the first year James went to movie school and I was his adviser. We have been friends and colleagues," said Weir. "No one knows James better than I."

Speaking to reporters outside the courtroom after he testified, Weir explained why he believed his friend was innocent of the charge.

"What James has done or not done may have been something that in Australia

is perfectly normal but here has been seen to be sinister, and it is not, he is just doing everything he does in Australia," he said.

Ricketson was arrested after he used a drone to film the final rally of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party before local elections. The party has since been dissolved as part of a sweeping crackdown on the opposition and media critical of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government.

The crackdown was widely seen as preparation for ensuring a victory by Hun Sen's ruling party in last month's general election, in which it won all 125 seats in the National Assembly. With Hun Sen's extension of power accomplished, there has been speculation the courts—widely seen as under government control—might allow Ricketson to walk free. Ricketson had been seen as sympathetic to the opposition party.

Reese Witherspoon, Keith Urban on board for cancer telethon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reese Witherspoon, Mahershala Ali and Keith Urban are among the stars joining the sixth Stand Up To Cancer telethon.

Jennifer Garner, Trevor Noah, Marlee Matlin, Matthew McConaughey and organization co-founder Katie Couric also will take part in the Sept. 7 fundraiser.

Stand Up To Cancer said Thursday that this year's live, hour-long telecast commemorates 10 years of raising awareness and more than \$480 million to fund innovative research.

Bradley Cooper is returning as co-executive producer of the event, which will be carried commercial-free by major broadcast networks and cable channels in the U.S. and Canada and on streaming platforms.

In a statement, Cooper noted that his family has been touched by cancer and called it a privilege to be back with the telethon. His father, Charles J. Cooper, had lung cancer and



This combination photo shows, top row from left, Ed Helms, Bradley Cooper, Reese Witherspoon and Keith Urban, and bottom row from left, Mahershala Ali, Jennifer Garner, Maria Menounos and Marg Helgenberger, who are among the stars joining the sixth Stand Up To Cancer telethon on Sept. 7. Cooper is returning as co-executive producer of the live, hour-long event. AP

died in 2011.

The telecast "showcases the significant progress being made in the fight against cancer, instilling hope in those facing the disease," Bradley Cooper said.

Others participating in the Stand Up to Cancer broadcast include Kathy Bates, Tony Hale, Marg Helgenberger, Ed Helms, Ken Jeong, Maria Menounos, Jillian Michaels, Dak Prescott, Italia Ricci, Rob Riggle, Karla Souza and David Spade.

Stand Up To Cancer, a division of the philanthropic Entertainment Industry Foundation, was established in 2008 by media and entertainment leaders to accelerate research and get new therapies to patients quickly.

Among other achievements, it's funded research that has contributed to federal approval of five new cancer treatments, including for breast, ovarian, pancreatic and some difficult-to-treat leukemias, the group said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Comedian Andy Gross stirs outrage at Purdue University

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)—Comedian Andy Gross stirred outrage at Indiana's Purdue University, which says the Los Angeles-based performer's act during a student orientation was inappropriate. The Indianapolis Star reports that some students walked out of Saturday's performance and accused the comedian of harassing a female student who was called on stage to assist with part of his routine. They say he made a crude reference to his own genitalia and requested that the student touch his leg, among other comments they found distasteful. A representative for Gross, a ventriloquist who also does magic tricks, did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press. School officials said in a statement accounts differ as to exactly what happened, but that parts of the performance were "clearly inappropriate and contrary to the university's values."

John Williams composition about ghost making world premiere

LENOX, Mass. (AP)—A new John Williams composition about a ghost said to have scared Leonard Bernstein is making its world premiere. "Highwood's Ghost, an Encounter for Harp, Cello, and Orchestra" will be performed Sunday at Tanglewood in Massachusetts, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The ghost haunts Highwood House, a building on the Tanglewood property. Many people have reported encounters with the specter over the years, but Bernstein's story is perhaps the most famous. Bernstein said he was approached by an apparition in 1990 while sitting by a window on the second floor. Startled, he sprang from his seat and called out to the figure. Williams said he wrote the piece for fun and to "provide the unusual combination of harp and cello an opportunity to set the stage for an ectoplasmic visit."

Georgia company sues R. Kelly over damage to rental homes

ATLANTA (AP)—An Atlanta-area property company is suing Grammy-winning R&B artist R. Kelly for \$203,400 over "extensive damage" to two homes he rented. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports SB Property Management Global, LLC., based in East Point, filed the lawsuit Wednesday. It says one home suffered damage to electric wiring, flooring, and windows and was missing items including a stove, furniture, ceiling fans and 22 light fixtures. These are the same homes an associate of Kelly's was accused of robbing in 2017. Alfonso L. Walker was charged with theft and burglary. Kelly and the company settled in April 2018 for \$170,000, agreeing Kelly would be released from damage claims. But the lawsuit says Kelly has only paid \$20,000. The newspaper couldn't reach any involved parties for comment.

Stormy Daniels drops out of UK reality show at last minute

LONDON (AP)—Stormy Daniels, the adult film actress and nemesis of U.S. President Donald Trump, has pulled out of a British reality-TV show at the last minute after a dispute with producers. Daniels was due to take part in "Celebrity Big Brother," which locks contestants in a house under constant surveillance. But she failed to join housemates including actress Kirstie Alley and psychic Sally Morgan for Thursday's first episode. Lawyer Michael Avenatti said Friday that Daniels argued with producers who attempted to "control her and produce a certain result." Broadcaster Channel 5 said Daniels told producers hours before airtime that she no longer wanted to participate. Daniels alleges she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006, and was later paid \$130,000 to stay silent about it. The president denies the encounter.

Planned baby name renews pain of tragic loss for family

DEAR ABBY: I come from a small, close family. Last year, we suffered a devastating loss. My cousin and her two children were killed in a car accident. We have all been profoundly affected by this loss, especially my aunt and uncle.

Fast forward: Another cousin is pregnant with her second child. She wants to name her daughter "Daisy" because she wants all her children to have flower-themed names. "Daisy" is the name of one of the children who died. I, and others in the family, are upset by her decision because her reason for choosing the name has nothing to do with honoring our lost family member.

I understand no one "owns" a baby name, and she can choose whatever name she wants for any reason. But I am having trouble getting past the fact that I'll see this child at family gatherings and have to call her by my dead cousin's name for no reason other than it was a cute flower name.

My cousin is set on using this name despite family protests, and I can't help but foresee bitterness ahead for us when we've already dealt with so much. What, if anything, can we do to make this situation more positive?

NAME GAME IN NEW YORK

DEAR NAME GAME: Your cousin appears to have the empathy of a garden snail. Did it occur to anyone in the

family to suggest to her that there are other flower names besides Daisy—Dalia, Daphne or even Desert Rose? (Her nickname could be "Desi," which is cute.) If you haven't, please do before the baby arrives. However, if she refuses to change her mind, it's time for you to start memorizing the Serenity Prayer.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 22 years. He's a diamond in the rough. My grown children, three boys, have always just tolerated him. They say he talks too much, doesn't listen and still treats the younger two like children. I know he can be overbearing at times.

They have now ganged up and will no longer allow the grandchildren to come stay with me. They say my husband is too harsh in correcting them, which isn't true. The only time he is loud and fast to correct is if the parents aren't here to do it. They have offered no alternative solution.

Two have expressed to my husband how they feel. My husband is trying to acknowledge their feelings and wants to do better. How do we proceed as a family? I'm afraid they will withhold the grands each time they disagree with us. Counseling is out since we live in separate cities. Any words of wisdom for us?

HURTING HEART IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR HURTING HEART: Look at this from your sons'

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



perspective. When they hear from your grandchildren that your grouchy (but well-meaning) husband yelled at them, as parents, their first instinct is to protect their kids.

I can't guarantee that your sons won't use emotional blackmail in the future, but I can offer two suggestions: Your husband should take a deep breath and count to 10 before he reacts, and he should defer the discipline to Grandma. And if that isn't enough to satisfy your sons, then you will have to visit them instead of having them visit you.

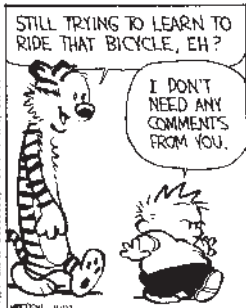
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

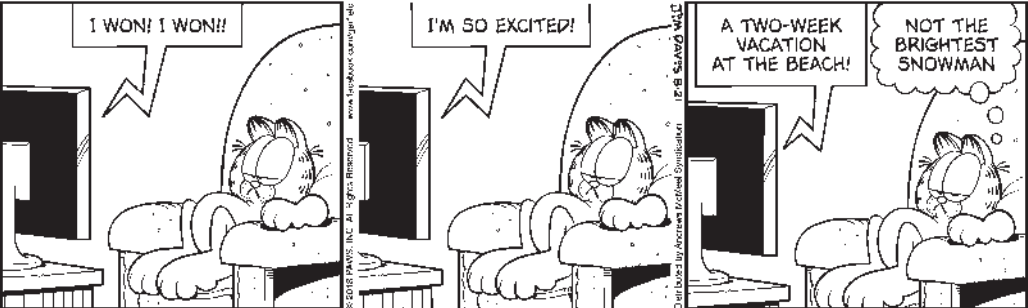


By Bill Waterson



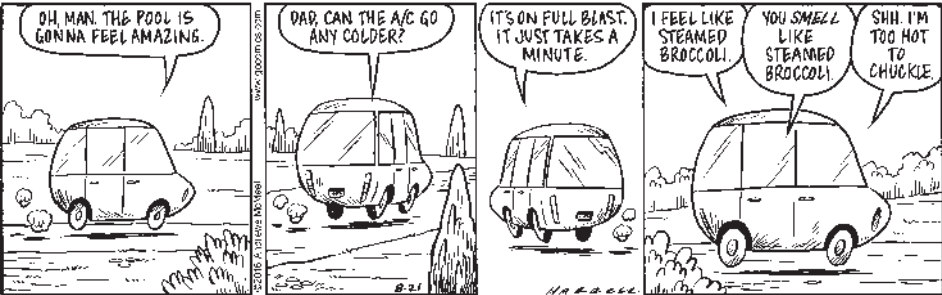
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35 Timid 36 Actor Sinise 37 — Beach, California 38 Porcelain 40 Viewed 42 Designer Claiborne 43 South American nation 48 Before 49 Mideast airline 50 Walked (on) 51 Nourished 52 Cabin components 53 Cupid's alias

DOWN 1 Bikini half 2 "— the ramparts ... 3 Trail the pack 4 "Jeopardy!" host 5 Cook-ware 6 Eye part 7 Indian bread 8 Cold and icy 9 Living beings 10 Scrambled wd. 11 Taverns 16 Snooze 20 Joplin composition 21 Fiddle sticks 22 Stead 23 Pepped up 24 Gratis 26 Use a rosary 27 Goal 28 Throat clearer 29 Singer Ono 31 Disentangle 34 Author Fleming 35 Teeny 37 Dis-pensed candy 38 Staff leader? 39 Employ woe 40 Hose 41 Morays 44 "Xanadu" band 45 Blunder 46 Privy 47 TV spots

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Hayden Panettiere, 29; Usain Bolt, 32; Carrie-Anne Moss, 51; Kim Cattrall, 62.

Happy Birthday: Take your time and consider long-term results before you put a plan into motion. Preparation will help you avoid an oversight that could be costly. The year ahead is meant to be used to clear up matters that hold you back emotionally. Encourage children, seniors or anyone who depends on you to be self-sufficient in order to ease personal stress. Your numbers are 2, 14, 23, 28, 33, 45, 58.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Before you step into unknown territory, consider doing a little research. Ask questions and find out if you have the knowledge, experience and qualifications to surpass whatever test comes your way. Partnerships will undergo a transition. Take a diplomatic approach to adversity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get involved in discussions that will lead to change, and follow through with your plans. Not everyone will be happy with your decisions, but if you are doing what suits you, that's what counts. Don't give in to interference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your flirtatious nature will not go over well with someone who wants time alone with you. Get your priorities in order and be honest regarding your intentions. Deal with domestic situations and children with compassion and understanding.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Recapture your past by reconnecting with someone you haven't seen in a long time. Memories will encourage you to pick up hobbies or

activities that you used to enjoy. A change at work will result in greater stability.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An unexpected change will disrupt your day. Accept the inevitable and proceed with caution. Moderation when dealing with domestic matters or partnerships will help. Physical changes can be made as long as they are within budget. Exercise and diet are encouraged.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've got what it takes to bring about the changes you've been contemplating. Educational pursuits, meetings and networking will help you connect with people who inspire you to follow through with your ideas. Create opportunities by being a participant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll face opposition at home or while dealing with older relatives or children. Don't overreact when positive input will encourage others to see things your way. The help or suggestions you offer should not put you in debt or personal jeopardy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Before you implement change, price out the cost involved and consider if your plan is realistic. Someone with experience will offer insight into how to move forward. A change regarding how you earn your living will help your personal situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): How you present yourself to others will make a difference when it comes to advancement. Invest time and money in your appearance as well as your skills. Mastering what you enjoy doing will make it easier to excel.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A personal change will do you good. If you aren't happy with the way you look, or with someone who has become too much of an emotional burden, it's up to you to do something about it. Consider your choices and take action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't lose sight of your dreams. Speak up if you have questions. Look for alternatives before you jump to conclusions. Make personal improvements instead of trying to change someone else. Walk away from anyone who is a poor influence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Helping others will lead to benefits. Offer suggestions and assistance, and make it clear what you expect in return. An opportunity will arise if you reconnect with an old friend or colleague. Develop and sign contracts or settlements.

Birthday Baby: You are charitable, approachable and progressive. You are adaptable and motivated.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		7	6			2	9		
					4			1	
9			3	5				7	
6		4					7		
		3				4			
	5					1		6	
5				7	1			8	
4			2						
	2	6		5	9				

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/21

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	2	6	7	3	1	8	4
8	3	7	9	4	1	2	6	5
6	1	4	8	5	2	3	9	7
4	8	5	2	3	6	7	1	9
3	6	1	7	8	9	5	4	2
7	2	9	4	1	5	8	3	6
2	7	8	1	9	4	6	5	3
1	4	3	5	6	7	9	2	8
9	5	6	3	2	8	4	7	1

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BRUNETTES Solution: 10 letters

ES BEACHY KNIPHIY
Z TLYHTRAE BGEESR
NRABHOOSSE RPSEL
OECLRCN (A) (H) OVOD
RAKE OODECLLLNRR
BKBCACWNYGIGUDI
CMEAHNONOSGSNJ
AORCEMHHMSLEEK
RRROOTSUCELSDTM
AEYBMDETTAMALBA
MNWHAZELNUTNOLR
EAKERBMOUADGAB
LARUTANSPIITYVCL
TAMAHOGANYVESKE
DIPDYEDIMENSION

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Almond, Amber, Autumn, Beachy, Blackberry, Bronde, Bronze, Brown, Caramel, Care, Carob, Chestnut, Chocolate, Cocoa, Dark, Deep, Dimension, Dip Dye, Earthy, Espresso, Glossy, Golden, Hair, Hazelnut, Honey, Inky, Jet Black, Long, Mahogany, Marble, Matted, Mocha, Morena, Natural, Ombre, Raven, Rose, Russet, Sandy, Silver, Sleek, Streak, Tips, Violet, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Chores

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Margarita Vallo)
Petitioner) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0321
-vs-)
Chong Shin Kim) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
Respondent)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 151 Box 10002, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of August, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Oba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Yano Enterprises, Inc.:
General Maintenance (1): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements:
All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

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2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
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Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

MOVED TO Wednesday, AUGUST 22, 2018

Due to Tropical Storm Cimaron, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a special meeting for the Airport Facilities Committee has been moved from Monday, August 20, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom, Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (July 27, 2018)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. ITEM: Airport Concessions Small Business Enterprise Program (ACSBEP)
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral statements.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a special meeting for the Board Appeals Ad-hoc Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom, Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA
(Meeting #2)

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (August 7, 2018)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. RNV Construction's Appeal – Saipan Passenger Loading Bridges Replacement Project
 - Oral Arguments by RNV and CPA Counsels
- IV. Executive Session
- V. Miscellaneous Matters
- VI. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed for oral statements.



Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. MPLT Loan
- V. CUC
- VI. Adjournment

WHATZIT Solution: Torn between two lovers

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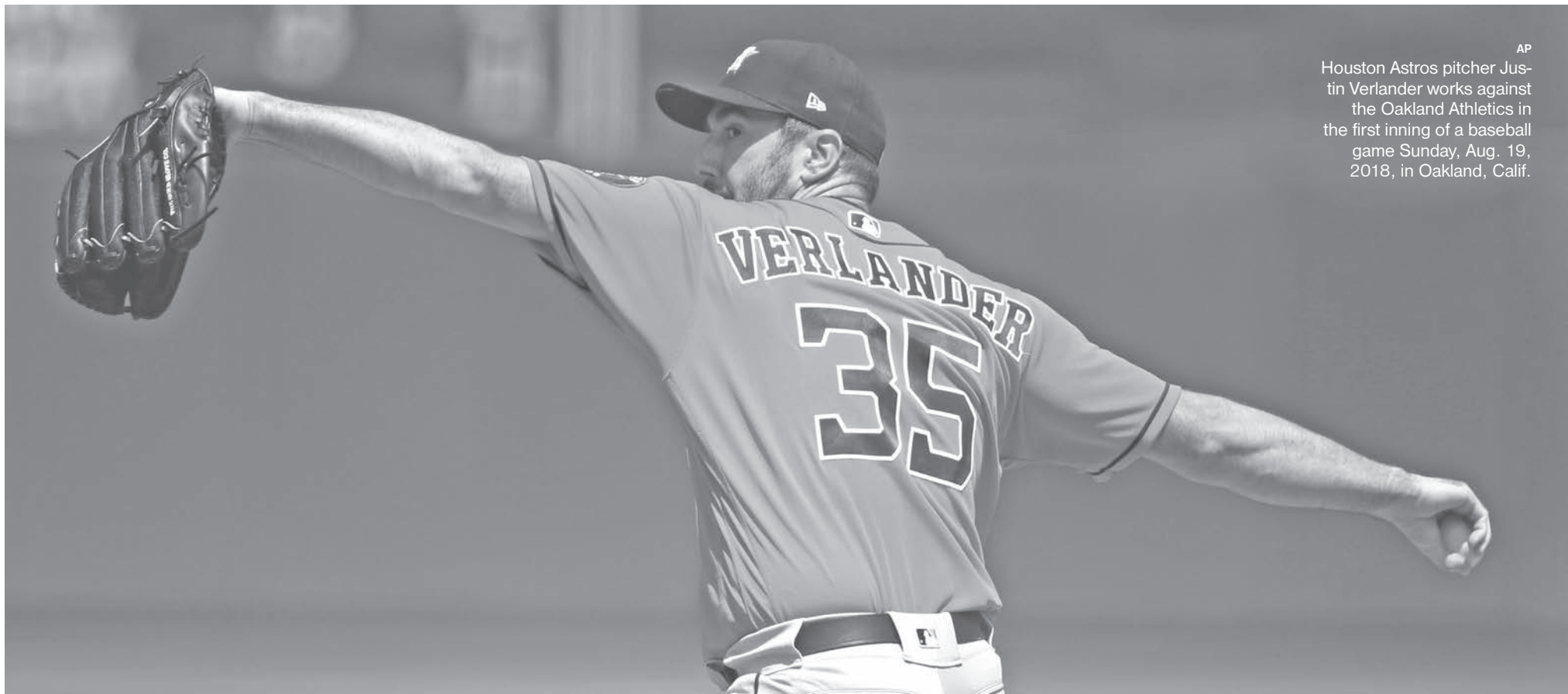
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Verlander wins 200th, Astros back ahead of A's



AP
Houston Astros pitcher Justin Verlander works against the Oakland Athletics in the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Justin Verlander pitched just well enough to earn his 200th career win and the Houston Astros hit five home runs, beating the Oakland Athletics 9-4 Sunday to avoid a sweep and retake sole possession of the AL West lead.

The surging A's had won the first two games at the Coliseum to tie shaky Houston atop the division. But Yuli Gurriel hit a three-run homer in the third inning and Evan Gattis, Alex Bergman, Marwin Gonzalez and Martin Maldonado later homered for the defending World Series champions. Maldonado also tripled and doubled.

Verlander (12-8) gave up four runs in 5 1/3 innings while becoming the 114th pitcher with at least 200 career wins.

Oakland's Sean Manaea (11-9) was charged with six runs and nine hits in four-plus innings.

Dodgers 12, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Clayton Kershaw pitched seven sharp innings for his 150th career win, Justin Turner homered and drove in five runs, and Los Angeles routed Seattle.

Kershaw (6-5) gave up four hits, struck out seven and walked one. The 30-year-old lefty with three NL Cy Young Awards improved to 150-69 in the majors.

Turner extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a season-high four hits, including a three-run homer in the ninth inning with position player Andrew Romine on the mound.

Mets 8, Phillies 2

In Williamsport, Amed Rosario had three hits and drove in three runs, and New York went

from cheering on players in the Little League World Series to impressing the youngsters in a victory over Philadelphia.

Jeff McNeil added a two-run single to back Jason Vargas (3-8) as the Mets claimed the second Little League Classic and prevented the Phillies from moving into first place in the NL East.

Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer for the Phillies, but Nick Pivetta (7-10) allowed six runs in 3 2/3 innings in Philadelphia's seventh loss in 11 games.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Mike Moustakas hit a two-run double, Jhoulys Chacin beat St. Louis for the first time in his career and Milwaukee edged the Cardinals.

Milwaukee (69-57) snapped a three-game losing streak and moved back ahead of St. Louis (68-57) for the second National League wild card. The Cardinals lost for just the second time in their last 12 games.

Chacin (13-4) entered the game 0-7 with a 6.90 ERA in nine career games against the Cardinals, but shut them out through six innings as the Brewers avoided their first three-game sweep at St. Louis since July 1-3, 2016.

Pirates 2, Cubs 1, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, Adam Frazier hit a game-ending homer in the 11th inning, and Pittsburgh beat Chicago for a split of their four-game series.

Josh Harrison grounded out and Adeiny Hechavarria struck out before Frazier drove a 3-0 pitch from Brandon Kintzler (1-3) deep to right. It was Frazier's fifth homer of the season.

The Cubs had a prime scoring chance against Richard

Rodriguez (3-2) in the top half of the inning, but came up empty. Addison Russell was picked off third by catcher Elias Diaz, and Albert Almora Jr. struck out looking with the bases loaded with two out.

Rockies 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, DJ LeMahieu homered, German Marquez pitched seven solid innings and the Rockies closed out their first four-game sweep in Atlanta.

Colorado improved to 30-16 since June 26, and each of those 46 games came against teams with winning records at the time.

LeMahieu put Colorado in front with his third-inning drive to left field. He has hit nine of his 11 homers on the road, including a tiebreaking solo shot in the 10th inning of Saturday night's 5-3 win.

Indians 8, Orioles 0

In Cleveland, Melky Cabrera hit a grand slam to cap a six-run fourth inning and Cleveland beat Baltimore for its AL-leading 13th shutout.

Cabrera, batting right-handed against reliever Sean Gilmartin, hit a 1-1 pitch into the bleachers in left-center for the Indians' ninth grand slam this season, moving them into a tie with Boston and Cincinnati for the major league lead.

Mike Clevinger (9-7) pitched six innings and is 4-0 in five career starts against Baltimore. The right-hander allowed seven hits and struck out seven.

Marlins 12, Nationals 1

In Washington, Jose Urena made the most of his borrowed time, pitching a two-hitter for his first complete game in the majors and leading Miami

over Washington.

Urena (4-12) was suspended for six games by Major League Baseball after hitting Atlanta rookie Ronald Acuna Jr. on Wednesday. Urena was ejected from that start after throwing only one pitch and appealed the penalty, keeping him eligible to play.

Yankees 10, Blue Jays 2

In New York, J.A. Happ stayed unbeaten with New York by topping his former Toronto teammates, and Greg Bird hit a grand slam during a six-run first inning.

The Yankees completed a three-game sweep, but lost shortstop Didi Gregorius to an injured left heel. Gregorius was hurt when he collided with Toronto first baseman Kendrys Morales beating an infield hit in the first, and was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

Rookie Miguel Andujar drove in two runs and backup infielder Ronald Torreyes, who replaced Gregorius, added three hits.

Rays 2, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Jalen Beeks pitched four strong innings against the team that traded him last month and Tampa Bay limited Boston to two singles.

Joey Wendle and C.J. Cron homered as the Rays topped the AL East leaders for just the fifth time in 16 games this season. Six of those Tampa Bay losses have been by one run.

Boston, which owns the majors' best record, lost for only the fourth in 21 games and was shut out for the fifth time this season.

Rangers 4, Angels 2

In Arlington, Rougned Odor connected on a go-ahead,

three-run homer with rain falling in the seventh inning, and Texas beat Los Angeles to wrap up a soggy weekend.

Odor's 15th home run of the season came minutes before the second rain delay of a game that started 13 hours after the previous night's game ended. The rain had just started for the third time in Sunday's regularly scheduled game when Odor pulled a pitch from reliever Noe Ramirez (4-4) into the seats above the Texas bullpen in right-center field.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 3

In San Diego, A.J. Pollock homered in the ninth inning, and Arizona beat San Diego to stay on top of the NL West.

Pollock drove a 1-2 pitch from Kirby Yates (4-2) over the wall in left for his 16th homer, sending Arizona to its fourth win in five games. San Diego had tied it at 3 on Daniel Descalso's solo homer off rookie Trey Wingenter in the eighth.

Archie Bradley (4-4) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win, and Brad Boxberger retired the side in the ninth for his 28th save. The Diamondbacks remained a half-game ahead of Colorado, which won 4-2 at Atlanta.

Twins 5, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, Eddie Rosario hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Minnesota connected three times in all, beating Detroit.

Max Kepler and Jake Cave also homered as the Twins won for the fifth time in six games.

Behind in the count 0-2 after two swings-and-misses to lead off the inning, Rosario launched the third fastball he saw from Alex Wilson (1-4)

into the right field seats for his 22nd home run.

Trevor Hildenberger (3-3) relieved Taylor Rogers in the eighth and got James McCann on a grounder with two on to end the inning.

White Sox 7, Royals 6

In Chicago, Omar Narvaez homered and drove in the go-ahead run with a single off Brian Flynn (3-4), Chicago relievers tossed seven scoreless innings and the White Sox rallied from a six-run deficit.

Avisail Garcia and Tim Anderson also homered for Chicago, which has won four of five.

Hector Santiago (5-3) allowed just two hits in four innings of relief to get the win. Jace Fry, the last of six relievers, got the final two outs for his second save.

Ryan O'Hearn, Whit Merrifield and Alex Gordon homered for Kansas City, which dropped to 2-13 in the rubber game of series this season.

Reds 11, Giants 4

In Cincinnati, Eugenio Suarez hit a two-run homer during Cincinnati's seven-run third inning, and the Reds swept San Francisco.

Jose Peraza also hit a two-run homer for Cincinnati, which outscored San Francisco 18-5 in the last two games of the weekend set. Billy Hamilton tripled twice and drove in three runs.

Reds right-hander Luis Castillo (7-10) struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings. He was charged with three runs, one earned, and six hits.

San Francisco dropped its fourth consecutive game. Andrew Suarez (4-9) was tagged for seven runs, five earned, and seven hits in a season-low 2 2/3 innings.

Finally! Djokovic beats Federer for 1st Cincy title

MASON, Ohio (AP)—Novak Djokovic gave his racket to a fan and tossed his sweatbands into the stands. No need for mementos from this victory. The long-awaited Rookwood pottery trophy would be plenty.

Djokovic finally mastered the one tournament that's eluded him, beating nemesis Roger Federer 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday for his first Western & Southern Open championship.

He got the better of a nostalgic rematch—they hadn't played in two years because of injuries—and broke through in a tournament that Federer has won seven times, never losing a title match.

"Thank you for letting me win once in Cincinnati," he told Federer as they stood on court for the trophy presentation.

After reaching the final five times and losing every time—three to Federer—Djokovic jumped and punched the air in celebration of his breakthrough. He's the first to claim all nine ATP Masters 1000 events since the series started in 1990, something that had become his quest after so many close calls.

"That's what the headline should be about—this is such an amazing accomplishment," Federer said. "He's the first to do it. I think it's very difficult to win Masters 1000s. These per-

formances don't come easy."

Djokovic leads their all-time series 24-22, doing better in the biggest matches. He's 3-1 against Federer in Grand Slam finals and 12-6 overall in championship matches, including wins at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2015.

Djokovic completed a long comeback from elbow problems by winning his fourth Wimbledon title last month, then set out to get his hard-court game in order for the U.S. Open. He got better as the rainy week went on in Cincinnati, playing his best at the end.

"This seems to be a bit unreal, to be honest, to be back at this level," he said.

Federer's serve had been untouchable all week—held for 46 consecutive games. Djokovic broke that streak to go up 4-3 in the opening set, prompting Federer to mutter angrily. Djokovic served out the set, and then traded breaks with Federer early in the second set.

Federer's game was off—28 unforced errors—and Djokovic took full advantage. He broke him again to go up 4-3 and served it out.

In the women's bracket, top-ranked Simona Halep let a match point slip away during the second-set tiebreaker, and Kiki Bertens rallied for a 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-2 victory in her



AP
Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland during the finals at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018, in Mason, Ohio.

earlier. She'd never beaten a top-ranked player, but wore down Halep at the end of her two draining weeks.

During the week in Cincinnati, Halep had one match suspended overnight by rain and wound up playing twice in one day to reach the semifinals. She controlled the first set on Sunday and had a chance to close it out, leading 6-5 in the tiebreaker.

When that slipped away, she never recovered, playing her worst in the final set—13 unforced errors that gave Bertens a chance to pull away.

"I had a match (point), so I was there," Halep said. "I didn't take my chance. In the third set, I was empty and I couldn't fight anymore."

Halep will be ranked No. 1 through the U.S. Open. She fell to 0-3 in Cincinnati finals, finishing as the runner-up in 2015 and each of the last two years.

"I need a little bit of rest because I'm exhausted," Halep said. "But I also take the positive from these two weeks. It's a great confidence (boost)."

Bertens has worked on her hard-court game and her confidence on the surface. In three previous appearances in Cincinnati, she won a total of one match. She became the first unseeded player to win in Cincinnati since Vera Zvonareva in 2006.

Olesen in, Poulter out in latest European Ryder Cup standings

Thorbjorn Olesen's final-round 67 wasn't enough to earn him the title at the European Tour's Nordea Masters on Sunday (congrats to Paul Waring, a playoff winner over Thomas Aiken). But Olesen's fourth-place finish, with four sub-70 rounds, did push the 28-year-old from Denmark into position to grab an automatic qualifying spot for the Ryder Cup team.

Olesen is projected to move into the fourth and final spot on the World Points list that's used to help fill out the European team that will play next month in Paris, moving past Ian Poulter and Paul Casey. He is also less than €40,000 back of Tommy Fleetwood for the final spot in the European points list.

European captain Thomas Bjorn, a fellow Dane, is close friends with Olesen and has indicated he would prefer that his countryman qualify automatically rather than require a captain's pick and bring their friendship into the equation. Olesen is trying to oblige, hav-



ing posted a win at the Italian Open in June, a runner-up at the BMW International and four top-12 finishes in his last five starts.

"I've been playing great for three or four months so that will probably add a bit more pressure [on Bjorn], but if I can keep grinding and working like I did this week and last week to get better the results will come," Olesen said.

Team Europe's automatic picks will be decided in two weeks after the European Tour's Made in Denmark tournament, in which Olesen is scheduled to compete. "There's always a lot of pressure when we play in Denmark and probably a little bit extra this time," he said.

Poulter and Casey, meanwhile, will be playing in next week's Northern Trust, the first of the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup playoff events. Good performances will allow them both to also compete in the BMW Championship before European qualifying closes.

first hard-court final.

Bertens served a 109 mph ace, flipped her racket away, fell to her knees and raised both arms. Moments later, she covered her face for a joyous cry,

wiping the tears away with her sweat-soaked blue wristband.

One point away from another loss, she had pulled off her biggest win, one that left her as stunned as everyone else.

"I cannot find words for this moment," she said.

The Dutch clay-court specialist ended Halep's streak of nine straight wins, including the title at Montreal a week

Snedeker wins Wyndham Championship by 3 strokes



GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Brandt Snedeker began the Wyndham Championship with history—and ended it with a victory.

Snedeker earned his ninth PGA Tour title Sunday, three days after opening with an 11-under 59.

He closed with a 65 for a three-stroke victory in the regular-season finale, breaking a tie with C.T. Pan on the final hole with a birdie and Pan's double bogey in the group ahead.

Snedeker finished at 21-under 259 for his first win since 2016 and his second at the tournament, but first at Sedgefield Country Club, to close what he called "the most stressful week I've ever had in professional golf."

"Shooting 59 on Thursday, your expectations go through the roof," Snedeker said, also expressing pride that he could "cap it off the way we did

today, to play pretty much a flawless round of golf."

Pan shot a 66 to tie for second with Webb Simpson. Simpson matched his career-best with a 62.

"I feel like it was a round I needed to make a push to the leaderboard," Simpson said. "Brandt's obviously had a great week ... so I knew it was going to take something super low."

Snedeker opened the tournament with the 59 that made him the first tour player this year and just the 10th ever to break 60, then on the final day played 29 holes at 5 under to seal it. He's the fifth tour player to shoot in the 50s and then win the tournament.

He was never in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time in his career, but the victory gave him a huge jump on the points list. He climbed 50 spots to No. 30 on the list, after arriving at 80th—which would have

been his lowest finish.

"To be perfectly frank, I didn't have any chance at all" to win the FedEx Cup before this week, the 2012 playoff champion said. "After this week, I feel like I have a chance."

For a while, it looked like it might come down to a playoff between Pan and Snedeker, who were even at 20 under entering Pan's final hole.

But the 26-year-old from Taiwan ran into big trouble: Pan shanked his tee shot out of bounds off a cart path down the right side of the fairway and needed four shots, including the penalty stroke, to reach the green on the par 4.

Pan said he heard "a couple noises in my head which caused me to hit a bad shot."

"It's my fault. I can learn something from it," he said. "I only played one bad hole, which is fine. You know, I've still got a lot of golf left."

With the victory seemingly

inevitable at that point, Snedeker sank a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th to end it, making him the 10th player to win in Greensboro multiple times. His victory here in 2007 was the first of his career, and this time he finished one stroke shy of Henrik Stenson's year-old tournament record.

"Wanting so desperately to win this tournament, it was just a lot of emotion this week," he said.

Severe weather led organizers to suspend the third round with 30 players still on the course and bring everybody back to Sedgefield on Sunday morning, leaving Snedeker with 29 holes to play on the final day.

He wrapped up that round with a one-stroke lead at 16 under before heading back onto the course. Since the tournament moved here in 2008, every third-round leader who was that far under par has gone on to win.

Cowboys' Zack Martin should be OK for opener



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys received the good news they expected after a preseason knee injury to Zack Martin, the highest-paid guard in the NFL.

Two people with knowledge of the diagnosis said Sunday that Martin has no structural damage in his hyperextended left knee and should be ready for the opener.

Martin was injured in the second quarter of the Cowboys' 21-13 exhibition loss to Cincinnati on Saturday night. The people told The Associated Press that an MRI confirmed the Cowboys' belief that the injury wasn't serious. They spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no official update on Martin's status.

The Cowboys open the season Sept. 9 at Carolina.

Martin signed a six-year, \$84 million extension with \$40 million guaranteed during the offseason. The 27-year-old has made the Pro Bowl all four seasons in Dallas and started all 67 games, including three playoff games.

The former Notre Dame standout was injured when he moved into the open field and bent down to block Bengals cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick on a run by Rod Smith. With Martin in the medical tent, the Cowboys finished their only touchdown drive with Dak Prescott's scrambling 6-yard



Dallas Cowboys offensive guard Zack Martin (70) walks with his teammates during an NFL football minicamp Wednesday, June 13, 2018, in Frisco, Texas.

throw to Terrance Williams.

"I was scared," Prescott said after the game. "I was just trying to get that touchdown and go check on him."

Martin was a first-round draft pick in 2014 and became the club's first rookie All-Pro selection in 35 years while helping the Cowboys win the NFC East and just their second playoff since the last of the franchise's five Super Bowls during the 1995 season.

The Cowboys had another injury scare with the offensive line earlier in training camp when center Travis Frederick saw a specialist in Los Angeles after a series of stingers. Frederick said he was cleared by doctors, although he likely will join Martin on the sideline for the rest of the preseason.

While Martin was getting evaluated, Frederick and fel-

low offensive linemen La'el Collins and Tyron Smith waited just outside the medical tent along with 2016 NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott.

"It was hard in that moment to think of all the possibilities of what could be going on right then with such a great player and such a great guy who's put in so much work to make sure his game is exactly where it is," Prescott said. "To see that wasn't good and it wasn't fun."

Smith, another first-round pick and a five-time Pro Bowl selection, has been battling back issues in recent seasons. Smith, Frederick and Martin have all made the Pro Bowl each of the past four seasons.

In East Rutherford, first-round draft pick Saquon Barkley ran on his own as the New York Giants returned to practice.

The former Penn State running back drafted No. 2 overall carried a ball and ran at roughly three-quarter speed Sunday as strength and conditioning coach Aaron Wellman watched.

Barkley strained a hamstring catching a pass out of the backfield at practice last Monday. He did not participate in the workouts held jointly in Allen Park, Michigan between the Giants and Detroit Lions. He also did not play in Friday's preseason game.

Coach Pat Shurmur continues to say Barkley will be handled on a day to day basis.

Jonathan Stewart and Wayne Gallman took the majority of first-team snaps during the practice that lasted roughly an hour.

While the injury is not going to change Barkley's role as the starting halfback, a ham-

string problem that has sidelined third-year safety Darian Thompson is creating a three-man competition for the spot opposite Landon Collins.

Curtis Riley, who played the past two seasons in Tennessee, and Andrew Adams, who has had 17 starts in the past two seasons, are competing for the job for Thompson, who also has 17 starts in two seasons.

Riley was considered the outsider coming into training camp, but he started against the Lions and continues to play with the first team.

"I bring a lot of range, I can tackle, speed, communication, which is the biggest thing, and

just knowing the defense," said Riley, who missed the preseason opener against Cleveland Browns with a hamstring injury.

Thompson started against Cleveland and sustained his hamstring injury.

Riley, who appeared in seven games with the Titans, said Tennessee played a similar defense.

"It's about communication, knowing what you are supposed to do, knowing where to put other people," Riley said, adding the coaches will decide the starter. "You've got to make plays, the NFL is about making plays."

Shurmur said backup quarterbacks Davis Webb, Kyle Lauletta and Alex Tanney are making progress on a daily basis. He said he has not made a depth chart for the position beyond Eli Manning being the starter.

TRAC hosts duathlon, trail run Saturday

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI will be hosting the Off-Road Duathlon and Trail Run this Saturday at the Last Command Post in Marpi.



The duathlon will cover a distance of 5-kilometer run, 20K bike race, and 2.5K run. For the trail run, interested participants can enter in one of the two events: 5K and 10K.

Medals and other prizes will

be given to the winners both in the duathlon and trail run races, which are supported by IT&E and Foremost.

Registration fee is \$10 for individual and \$20 for a team; payment can be made on the race venue or via the registration website: <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=145411>. Races will begin at 6am. (Fahim Uddin)

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library golf tourney set for Oct. 27

By FAHIM UDDIN
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REPORTER



Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be holding its fourth annual golf fundraiser tournament on Oct. 27 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Registration fee is only \$100 and tournament format will be double peoria. Entry forms

and tickets are available at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the Top 5 finishers of the competition. The champion will earn \$400; \$350 goes to the runner-up; \$300 to the third placer; \$250 to the fourth; and \$200 to the fifth finisher. Side raffle prizes are also at stake in the golf tournament with players having

a chance to win hole-in-one prizes. For the closest to the pin contest on hole Nos. 3, 13, 7, and 17, most accurate drive on No. 9, and longest drive on No. 10, each winner will bring home \$150. However, an additional \$20 must be paid to join these side events.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund Joeten-Kiyu's Public Library Resource and Collection

Development, circulation materials, and other library programs.

Last year, the competition was able to raise more than \$10,000 to subsidize Joeten-Kiyu's Public Library programs.

Meanwhile, the registration deadline for the tournament is set for Oct. 25 at 5pm. For more information, call 235-7315, 235-7316, and 287-7161.

SSC

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while Villacrusis represented the islands in the 12th Oceania Swimming Championships in Papua New Guinea in June this year.

"Having the opportunity to represent the CNMI in off-island competitions for swimming was great. It helped me become more aware of the world around me and I was able to grow and be a better individual. I would like to thank the NMI Swim Federation for giving me the chance to represent the CNMI in many big events," said Villacrusis.

The Mt. Carmel School graduate also thanked all the SSC coaches who helped him during his stay with the club.

"During my time with SSC, I was taught by four great swim coaches. I would like to thank coach Michael Villagomez and Lisa Kimball for helping me start my swimming career. The other two coaches, coach Gary and coach Jacoby, made me the person I am today. They have been working with us for many years and are still working hard every day to keep the club running. We all know about the sacrifices they both have to make for us, and I just want to say thank you

to them. Thank you for never giving up on us after all these years. Thank you for believing in us and for striving to make us amazing people in and out of the pool," Villacrusis said.

As for Akimaru, he was with SSC longer than Villacrusis, and the 13 years his spent with the club were fruitful ones, as he set one record after another and earned top honors for the group.

"It was a great experience that not a lot of people can have," said Akimaru, who is heading to Osaka to pursue a college degree.

Meanwhile, Winkfield is counting on the remaining SSC

swimmers to step up in absence of Akimaru and Villacrusis.

"It is going to be different without Kento and Christian around and there will be a noticeable void with their absence, but I am confident that other swimmers will step up to lead the team. I am excited to see the team grow and step up in their absence, just like they did when Victoria (Chentsova) left," Winkfield said.

"SSC works hard to give its swimmers the tools they need to confidently move on to the next challenge. I am confident they are well prepared and I am excited for them," he added.

BEARS

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mark. However, their win-loss record is not yet official, as their victory over the Mariners last Aug. 9 was placed under protest by the latter. SBL has yet to make a final decision on the match under protest.

The Mariners and Aces' final standings are important for

the playoff pairings, as the No. 4 finisher will have to face the streaking Bears and the No. 3 will be pitted against the equally tough GSM.

Meanwhile, although the semis cast has been completed, the remaining matches in the regular season will still be played to determine the winners in the individual statistics.

TOUGH

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ing hard for the past several months. Of course, there are a lot of areas in our game that we need to improve and focus on as the tournament nears. That includes working on their passes to the designated receivers and improving their concentration and communication at the pitch," said Koo, who at the end of their training session demonstrated some passing drills and during the scrimmage told the players to speak louder when asking for the ball.

"Don't be scared or be pressured when you hear me shouting or see me looking at you. Just concentrate and always remember the plays we have been teaching you," Koo told the players while they were stretching and cooling

down after the more than two-hour practice.

"This is a very young team. The players are aggressive, but they also need to learn how to be patient when making those passes and going for the shot," said Koo, adding that they will still have a few more days to work on their individual and team tactics before leaving Saipan early next week.

The CNMI Women's National Team, before heading to Mongolia, will go to Japan first for a training camp. In Japan, they will play against two teams. Then in Mongolia, Koo's wards will be challenging the host, Guam, and Macau.

"It's going to be a great experience for a very young team. We will try our very best to prepare them for the tough games in Mongolia," the head coach said.

SEDA League/SBA 8-Ball Open League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Jonny's Real Deal players smile for a group photo at Jonny's Bar & Grill after their game in the 2018 Saipan Electronics Dart Association League.



Members of the Jonny Serial Killaz celebrate their win over Board Members.



6JMS Mafia I players pose for a photo after their match in the A Division.



Members of 6JMS Terminator gather for a group photo.



6JMS Thunder Darts Impact players pose for a photo before their match in the darts league.



Players in the SEDA League have a light moment before starting their match.



911 Straight 8 Black Ball's Mervin Sahagun concentrates during a game at Amari's Tavern in the SBA 8-Ball Open League.

Verlander wins
200th, Astros
back ahead of A's

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Finally! Djokovic
beats Federer for
1st Cincy title

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28 TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tough love for CNMI women's team



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Therize Millare, left, and Grace Choi battle for the ball during a scrimmage at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday.

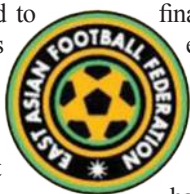
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Olympian Luem Khen Koo was shouting instructions at the CNMI Women's National Team during the group's scrimmage yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex and was still at the top of his voice even though their training session was over.

Koo later explained to his players why there's a need to constantly remind them about their lapses and show them how to correct these mistakes.

"That's the job of the coach. You could call it tough love, but if you want them to learn and improve, you have to point out their mistakes and correct them," said Koo.

The head coach and his team are training for the EAFF E-1 Women's Preliminary Round 1, which will be played in Ulan Bator, Mongolia early next month. The



final roster for the women's squad has been selected, but the official announcement is expected to be made this weekend. The group has been training for several months now, holding practice sessions six times a week, mostly at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Yesterday, the training session had to be moved at the artificial turf at the TSL Sports Complex in Middle Road due to the bad weather.

"They have been train-

See TOUGH on Page 26

SSC pays tribute to departing swimmers



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club had a send-off party for its senior members Christian Villacrusis and Kento Akimaru last weekend to honor the two's contributions to the group and CNMI swimming.

"Both Kento and Christian have played an integral part

in SSC and CNMI swimming's growth and success for the last six years. Both have been excellent role models for the younger generation and outstanding ambassadors for the CNMI to the world. I am proud of the young men that they have become, and sad to see them leave, but excited for all the new oppor-



tunities they will have. Swimming has afforded them a unique opportunity to see the world as well as challenge them daily," SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield. Villacrusis and Akimaru are leaving Saipan to go to college with the former heading to Oregon and the latter to Japan. The two SSC veterans

are thankful for all the opportunities they got and the lessons they learned on and off the pool during their stay with the club and while suiting up for the CNMI national team. Akimaru's recent stint with the Commonwealth squad was during the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap last month,

See SSC on Page 26

Bears formally take pennant; SBL semifinals cast complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The streaking Chalan Kanoa Bears secured the pennant in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League, while the semis cast was completed last Friday.

The Bears were handed a win via forfeiture against the Falcons last Friday to improve their record to 16-1 with one game left (versus the Indians) in the double-round-robin elimination. Their last match, which is set today as per the original schedule SBL organizers released last week, will not affect the Bears' final standings, as the second-running Go See Mark could no longer catch the former at the top spot of the 10-team field. GSM holds a 13-3 slate with two games left in the elimination.

However, a win over the ousted Indians (2-14) would give the Bears a sweep of the second round and extend their streak to 17. The pen-

nant champion's lone loss this season so far was against the defending titlists Aces, who dominated the Bears in their first round game, 14-4, last March 9.

Meanwhile, with the Bears' victory via default over the Falcons, the latter were eliminated and the Mariners and Aces moved into the semifinals, joining the league-leaders and GSM.

The Mariners hold an 11-6 record and would finish the elimination with a 12-6 mark once they are formally awarded the victory (forfeiture) in their last match against the Ballistics. The Ballistics would no longer play their remaining games after forfeiting two matches before the league took a break last month to give way to the 9th Micronesian Games.

The Aces, on the other hand, wrapped up the regular season last week with a 12-6

See BEARS on Page 26